Wat Praknam

Seems like Yesterday

WWWG Productions Ltd. Singapore
Copyright World-wide & All Rights Reserved
First publication date: December 2019 CE

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

TO ALL EMIL FANS...THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We deeply appreciate your continued devotion to helping us bring Emil's work to the world and that for some unknow reason (we haven't figured it out) you seem to have adopted buying Emil's books as your good deed; you must see it as building merit for your next life time.

We here at WWWG feel much the same way although the amount of merit that were are building is multiplied by a factor of ten, one-hundred...as we have to deal with Emil directly and my friends, that is not always an easy task as with this month's edition and our need to break this work into two separate editions.

Of course, Emil failed to see the merit of dividing this into the two books that it seems to naturedly flow into with this one, focused on the people at the Temple and the other focused on the Wat's Museum Pagoda. This seems logical and interesting but, Emil is only concerned with the misunderstanding that we are cheating him out of his standard fee.

Anyway, we resolved this by sending Emil to Burma for New Years' and after he left, we published this...

Seine LaGone

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

GREETING ALL OF MY INQUISITIVE FELLOW TRAVELERS!
This month has been a traumatic month of changing time zones, seemingly endless plane flights, with long layovers or delays as they attempted to repair the plane...at virtually each stop...lot of duct tape everywhere...
Three days from Kyoto back to Singapore on an airplane that should either be resigned to a museum or a landfill was an adventure in terror with every whine the plane made as we flew at almost sea level...the pilot said he wanted to give us the treat of a **FREE** sea cruise but, I am afraid that it was that either the plane couldn't get any more altitude (thank God for that since the plastic windows were duck taped to the fuselage) or that for whatever reason(s) we were flying below radar level...as I said, either way it was scary!

{Once back in town and through Immigration the drama takes a turn to the dramatic...}

"We got trouble right here in Singapore City...but, it doesn't rhyme with POOL...but it does with newly Homeless."

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

GREETING ALL OF MY INQUISITIVE FELLOW TRAVELERS!

"Homeless in Singapore" Episode #1:

So, I am back on the subway to go find a cheap hotel to stay in for a few days as my dear, sainted landlady stripped my spacious walk-in, closet-sized apartment...sending all my stuff to her nephews' thrift store and then, she had the nerve to not tell me that she had rented my room to some illegal construction worker from Nepal...just because, I hadn't paid my rent for 2 months...and he had cash...

Like no one is perfect...

I am the first to admit that I am not!

But all you guys already know that!

I think it is her fault too...kind of...sort of...

She could have waited a bit longer as a courtesy for a long-time renter or she might have given me a proper warning...other than that cryptic e-mail that she sent me last month about wanting her rent money...

Who knew that she was that serious???

You can understand his panic, surprise when I walked in this morning and fell asleep on the couch (she was too cheap to change the lock) ...

Seems like Yesterday

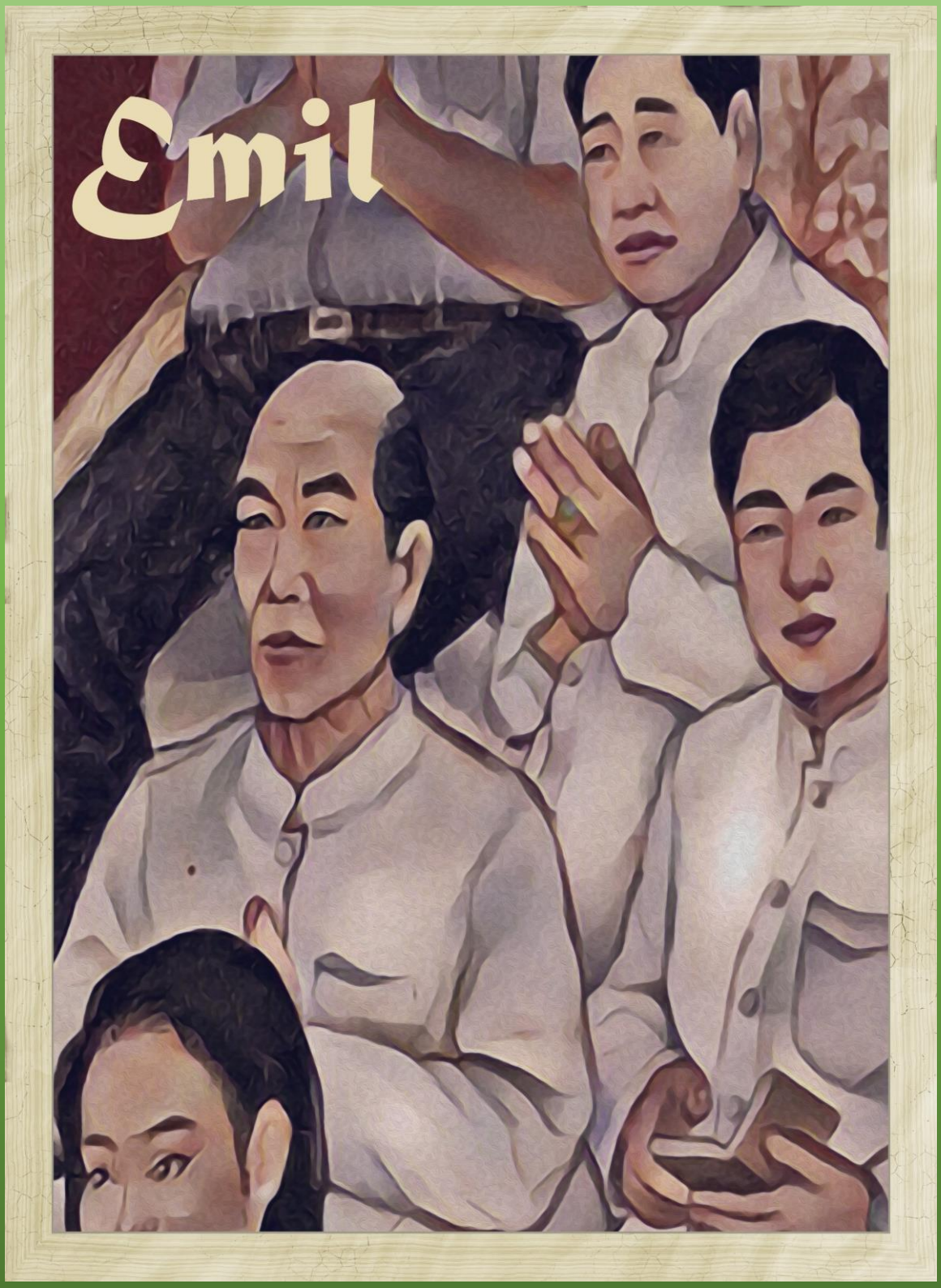
Seems like Yesterday

He was rather upset...
Go figure, UH????
Maybe, I will just pitch a tent @ WWWG's Main office until those evil, swine socialist (Communist) accountants @ WWWG pony up some money to help me get out of their lobby and into another furnished, walk-in closet or as it is advertised here in Singapore:
"Spacious, deluxe apartment with a very nice view..."
Well the joke is on her...as most of the stuff in the apartment was either rental or stuff she gave me over the past several years as other renters checked out...
Anyway...Almost finished with new book and not a moment too soon as I am already packaging for the next assignment in Rangoon (I know they changed the name but, I am old and stuck in the old day ways and phrases) ...

OK CAMPERS!

Here is a heads up...the evil corporate swines, all of that Klan of socialist (communist) bean counters

Seems like Yesterday



Seems like Yesterday

(accountants) that WWWG has selected to hire and their most swinish leader (Mr. Chucky) has convinced Seine to divide this upcoming book into several editions under the misconception that that they can increase their corporate profits on the back of the starving artist (Me) and as before; I am not a happy camper - as I don't see any of those additional pennies raining down on my payday!
Remember that Wat that I told you about in Burma where if you can say a prayer then, make a wish and it does come true...I will be going there on my upcoming trip and I will make what some would say is a very selfish wish...even though God tunes such wishes out...
But, I see it as calling on God to restore Freedom and Democracy in the hallow halls of WWWG by driving those Communist Accountants out of the building...which I believe to be unselfish...
I will let you know!

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

WAT PAKNAM IS CALLING YOU!

This Wat (PakNam Temple) is not on your standard greyline tour to visit list but, that makes it worth the effort as it is one of the most interesting, functioning Wats that I have visited here in Bangkok.

It is not difficult to get to **ONLY** if you have been there before and since I hadn't; this alone was yet another grand day of adventure.

Most of the information on the Internet about getting there was either wrong or had important pieces missing and for someone who was following this advice would have become hopelessly lost in a maze of back alley streets while seeing the Wat on the horizon. Don't Walk from the BTS!!!

Here is an example...while seemingly simple like 1-2-3 it was wrong all the way around...

HOW TO GET TO WAT PAKNAM

1. Take BTS sky train and get off at Talad Plu Station
2. From Talad Plu Station, take a taxi to Wat Paknam (the fare is around 60 Baht)

Seems like Yesterday

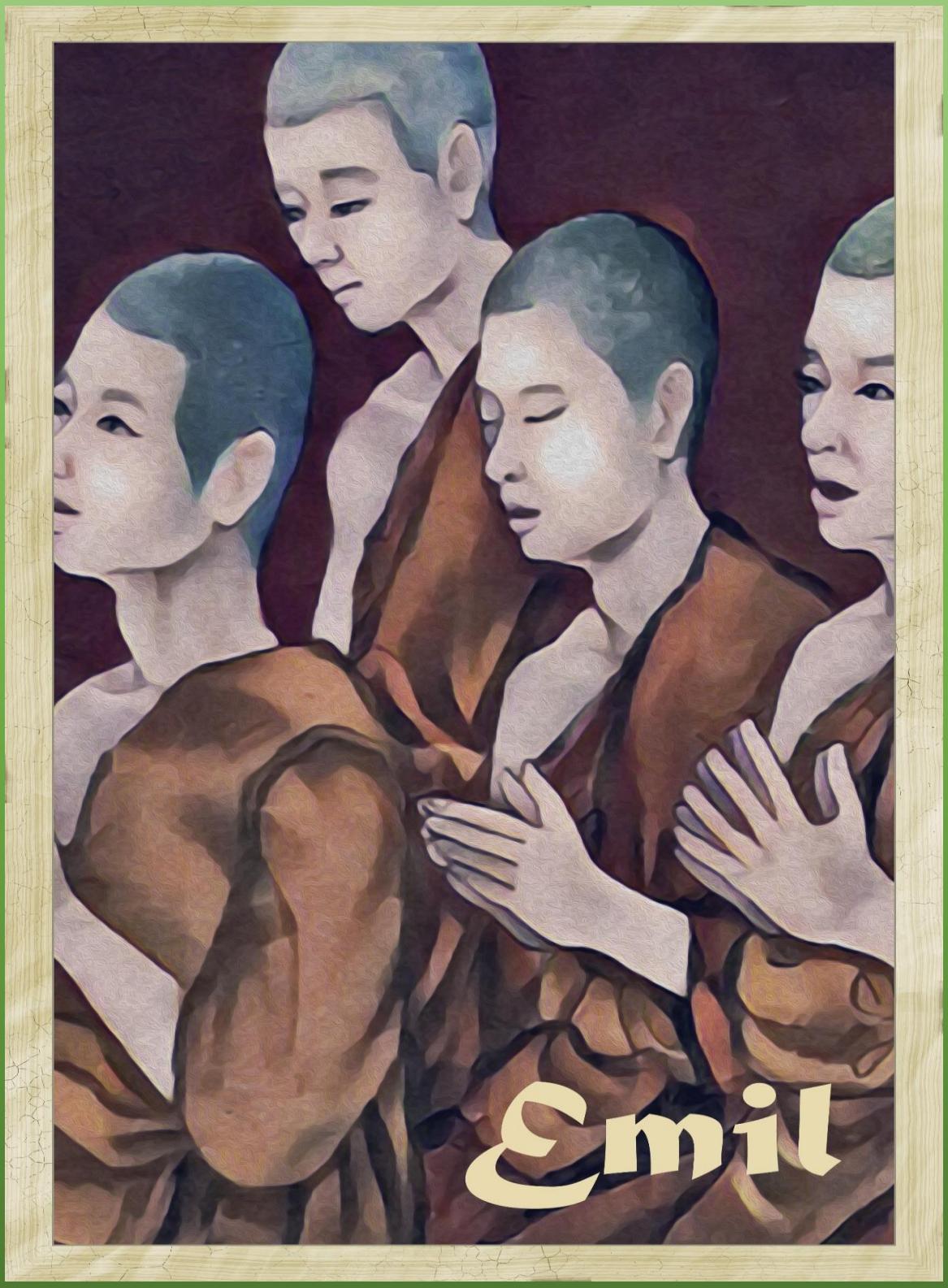
Seems like Yesterday

3. Or Take Song Taew or the red truck bus from the front of Talad Plu Station – the Song Taew will take you to the entrance of Wat Paknam (the fare is 7 Baht)

LET'S BREAK THIS DOWN...

Yes, you can get off at Talad Plu Station which I did but there are a few more steps involved before this point of your journey that they overlooked or omitted (most of these guys forget you are maybe, a first time tourist and don't have a clue on how to get to Talad Plu Station) from their directions.
Yes, you can take a taxi but there was none there as this station is a slightly used, suburb station (I was the only one getting off here and even the rent-a-cop security lady was surprised that I had but was too disinterested or too experienced to get involved with some lost Foreign Devil Tourist) and I had to walk a block and actively flag down a passing taxi from the main street.
From there it was easy, breezy because I came prepared with the name and address of the Wat in Thai (many times the Thai name and the English

Seems like Yesterday

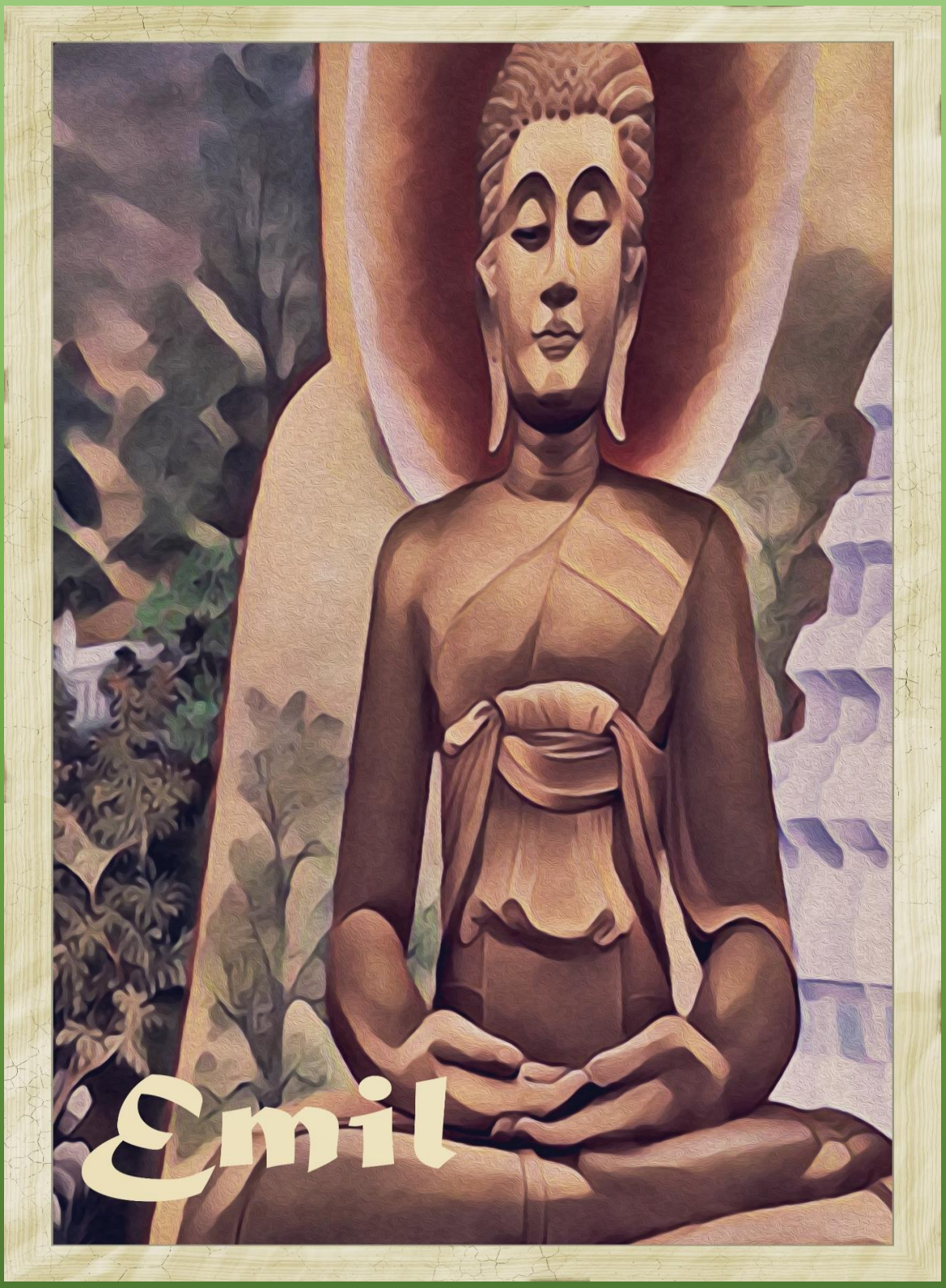


Seems like Yesterday

name are very different and at that point who knows where you will end up at...Cambodia?) and five minutes later, I was at the main (kind of) entrance for only 40 Baht (about a $1.30 USD). There are no mini buses (red Song Taews) at the station only some rather bored Motorcycle Taxi Riders – the mini-buses are at the other and more common starting point over at the BTS (Sky Train) Station at Wutthakat.

At Wutthakat there are the red mini-buses and indeed they have a fixed rate of 7 Baht...normally, they are good to that price unless you look extremely rich (big expensive camera, cargo shorts and Nike Glow-in-the-dark NBA sneakers...you got the picture, right?) or look extremely lost or both.

Seems like Yesterday



Seems like Yesterday

Thailand is universally noted as the land of dual pricing – one price for locals or those who speak enough Thai to scold the driver for being “Black Hearted” and you, the Foreign Devil from the Land of plenty...who will pay through the nose...

Hey, they have seen all the movies, they know that all Americans and Europeans are wealthy, that they should be forced to share their wealth and good fortune for being born there instead of here...

On a certain level I agree with the argument and I have been tempted at times to practice this too...

Don’t stress as the fare is posted on the side of the bus but, I would confirm that with the driver before I climbed in.

Or Bubba, just get a cab...

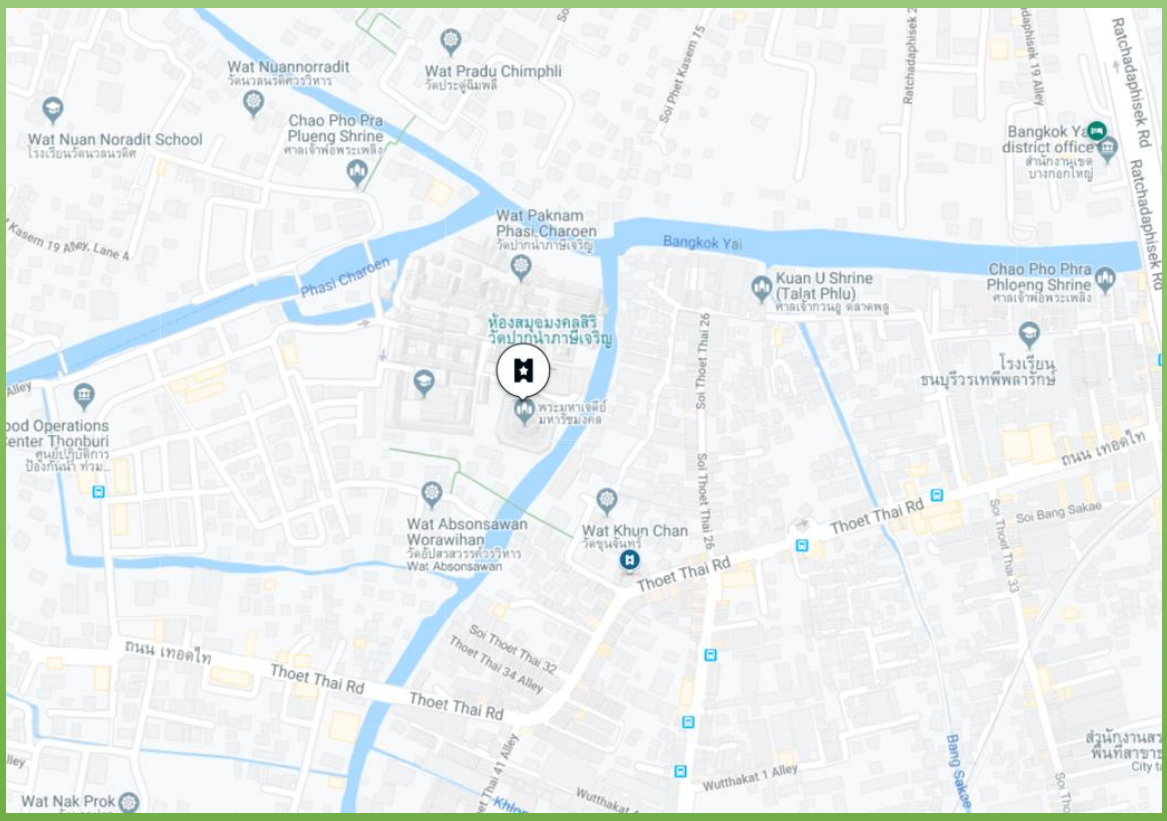
I’m sorry! But, if a $1.30 is too much to spend to ride over to the Wat in an air-condition sedan then, you should have stayed home...watching YouTube...

So, you are OK from BTS (Sky Train) Wutthakat are ya? Good to go? OK?

Now the important thing that our Internet Travel Gurus forgot to tell you is how to get to BTS (Sky Train) Wutthakat, didn’t they?

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday



Thought so...

Let's start you at Siam Square's BTS...if you have been in town from over an hour, you know where this is...

At Siam Square's BTS take the Silom BTS Line to Wutthakat...it will take you about 30 minutes or so...

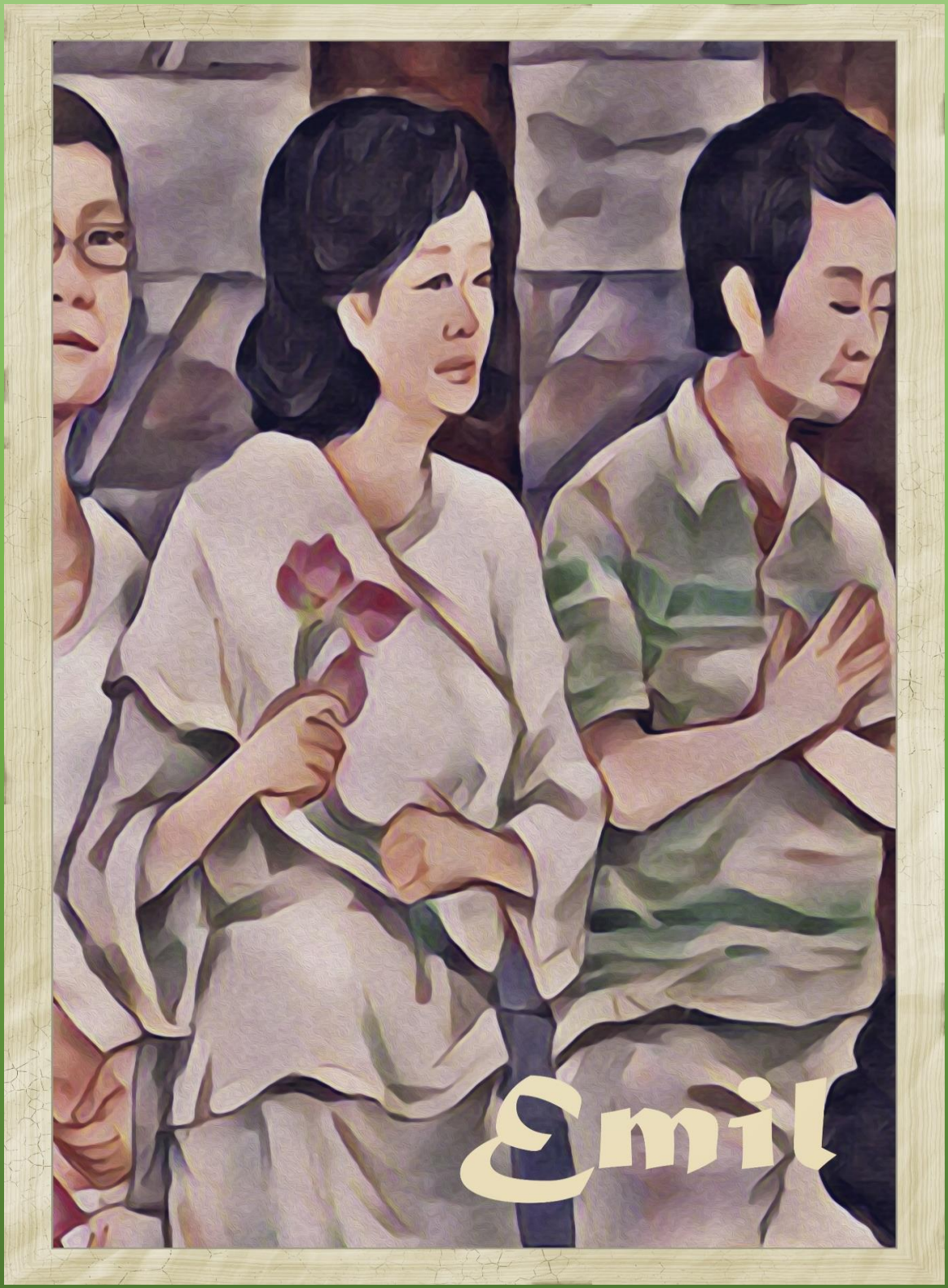
Do **NOT** go before 10 AM or come back after 4 PM or you will have a very uncomfortable trip sardined in a subway car with 500-600 of your newest, BFF

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

friends all trying to claw at any kind of standing ground...
YEA! It is very crowded!
Seems that on most week days after 10 AM, you might even get a seat and that is a good thing as it is a long trip.
Again, it is worth the effort to go see the six story Pagoda that is a combination mediation center (free services), an interesting museum of a sundry collection of antiques/collectables donated to the Wat over the past several hundred years and combined with a most interesting shrine on the 6th floor that opens up to the whole multiplex of the multiverse (multiple universes – Quantum Physics).
No fees, no angry hawkers or pushy tour guide want-to-bees just a friendly rent-a-cop who actually smiles and freely returns a nod...just don't wink!
Overall, I spent just about three hours there but, I am into Buddha Antiques...so you time millage may vary...
Getting back is as simple as going back to where the taxi let you out and wait 2 minutes for another to drop someone else off and tell them to take you

Seems like Yesterday



Seems like Yesterday

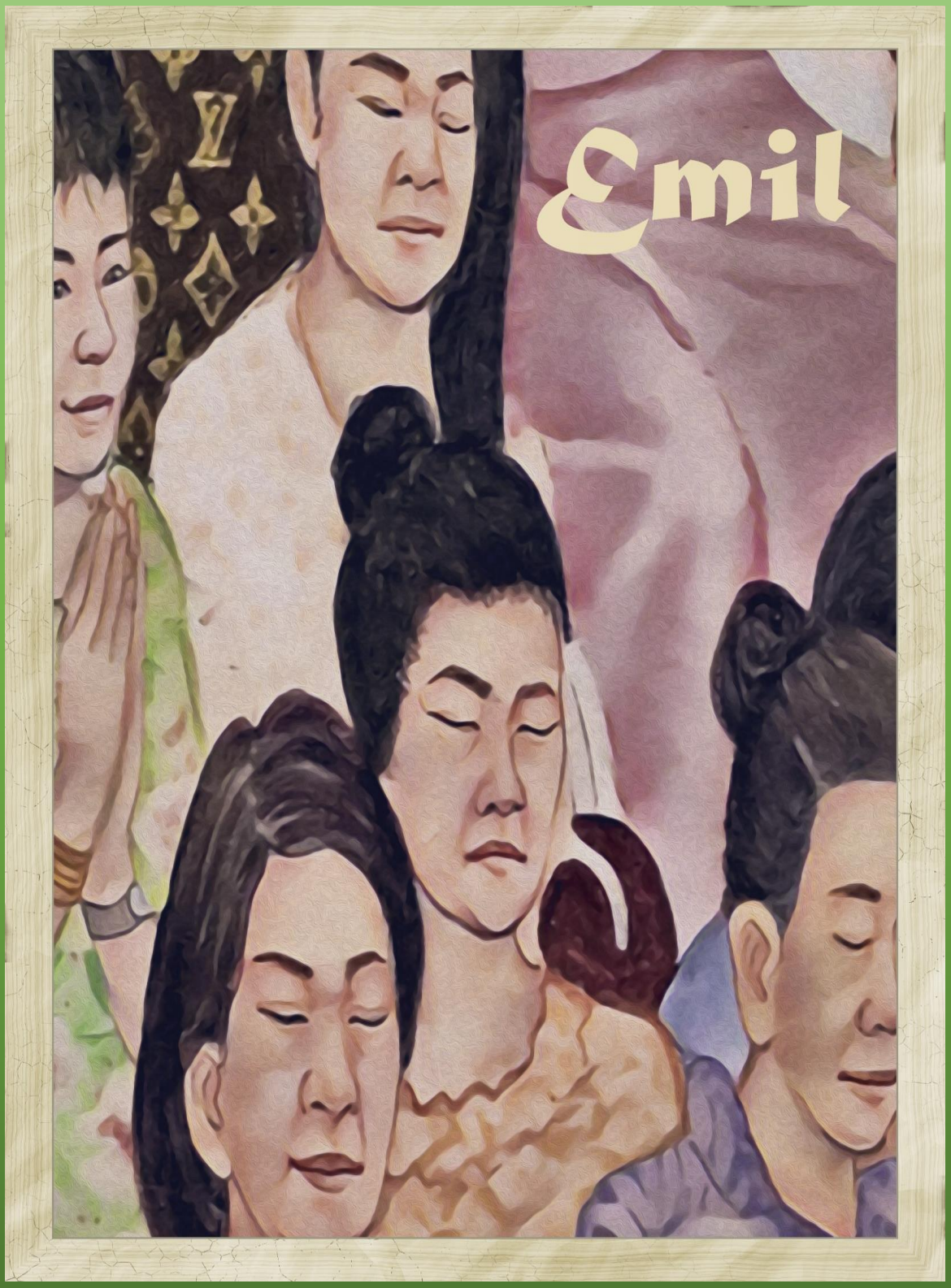
back to the BTS.
If there is a Dora “The Explorer” in you; by all means do follow the numerous signs over to where the red mini-buses stop and ride back to the BTS local style...
You are now a season veteran or at least you will feel that way and as your share your adventures with friends and family - once you get back home.

Seems like Yesterday

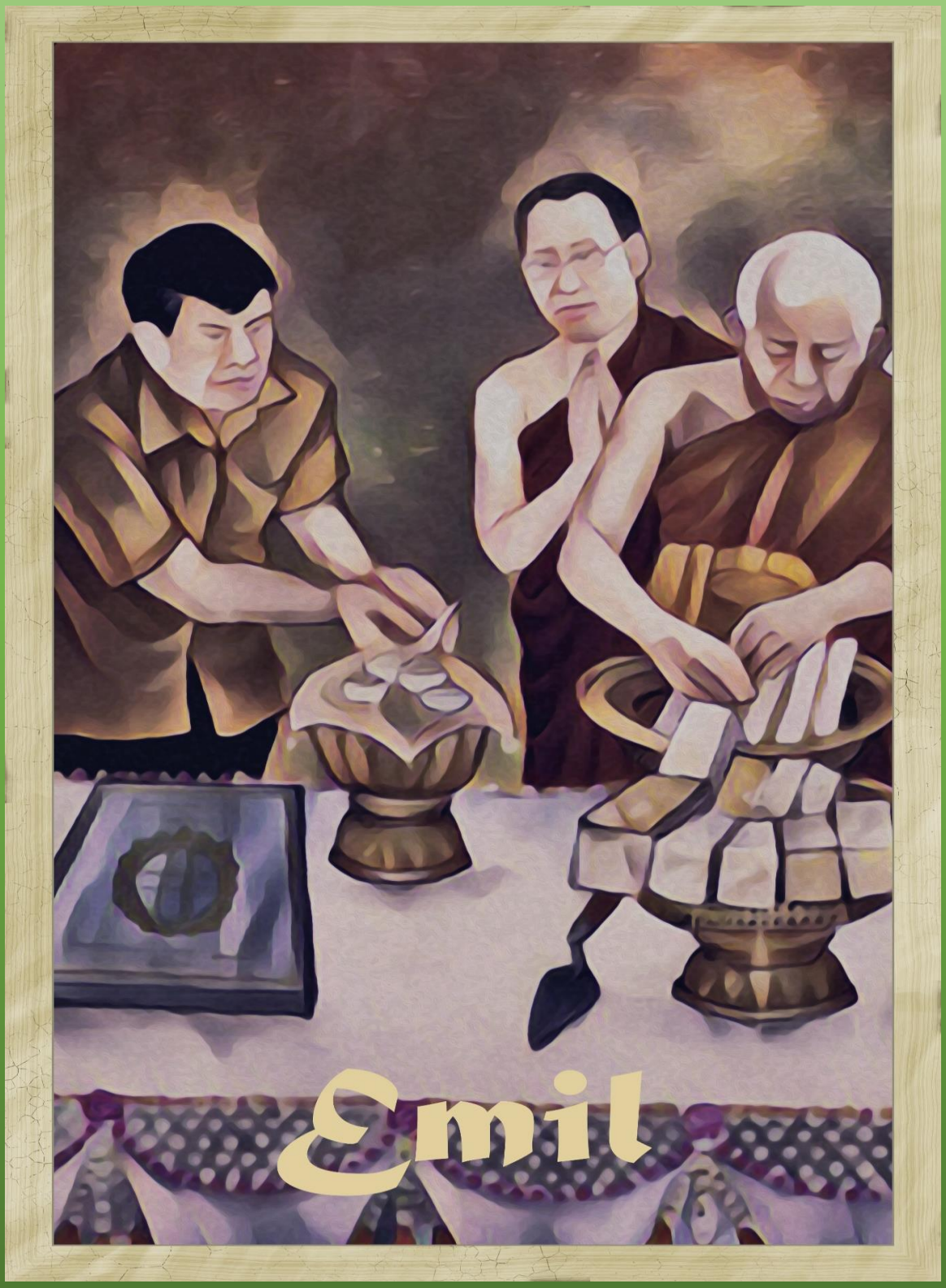
Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday



Seems like Yesterday



Seems like Yesterday

ON THE FOUNDATION DAY...

I have been told; endlessly have I been scolded for my failure to understand that in this culture (Thai) that it is never a light matter when you do anything.

I guess that this is or that it might have some true but, I have lived here long enough to understand that this is somewhat of a window dressing on a people who live spontaneously and are more driven by the whim of the moment, they seem more prone to doing everything at nearly the last moment much as the rabbit darting across the road merely a second ahead of a speeding car or truck.

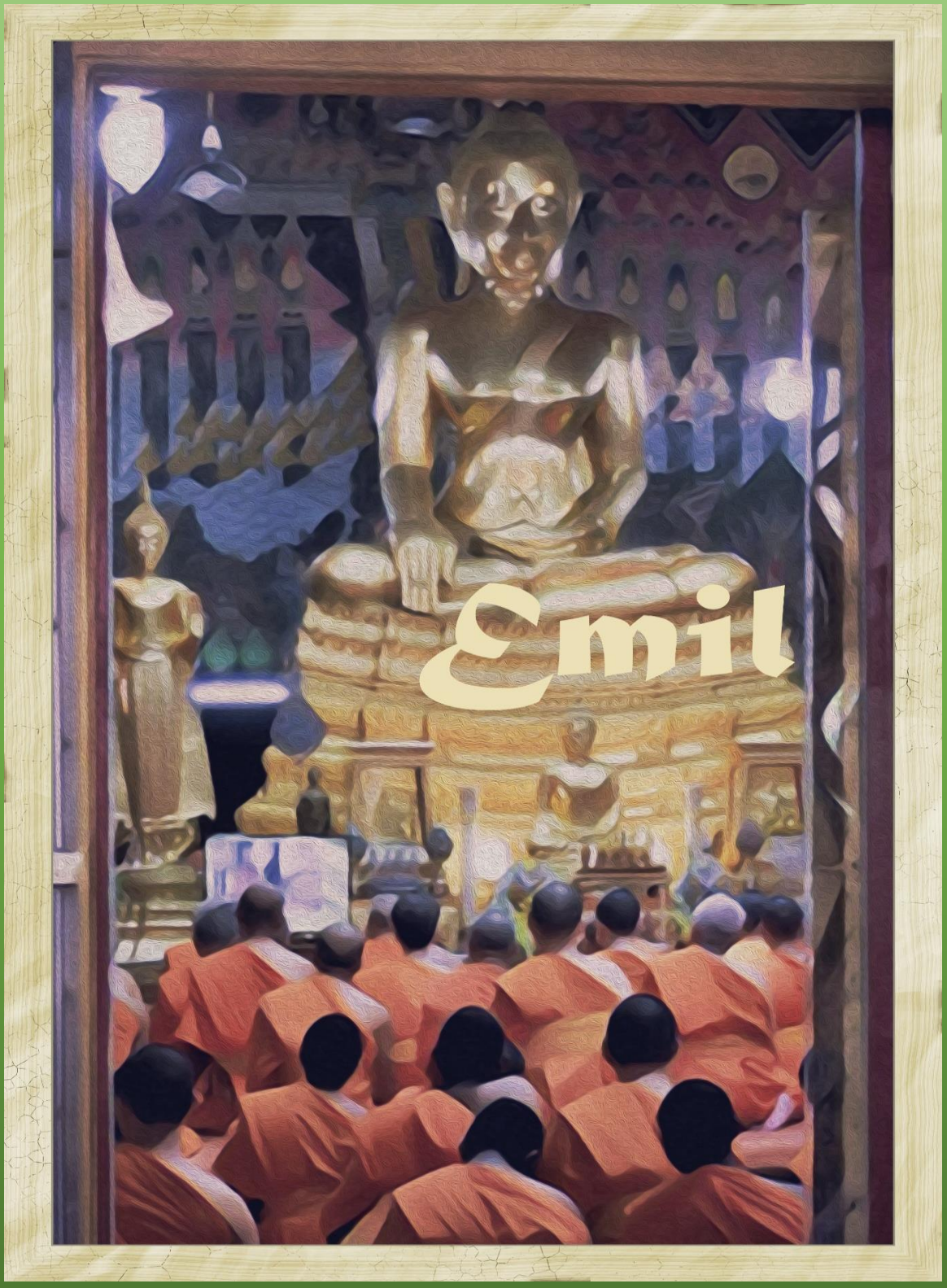
Why?

It is their nature!

I have seen that Thai people do like to consult the astrology charts in order to find an auspicious time to do something important, lottery tickets and even when to pay a past due bill...I do that... but, my consulting is also tied in the every present concern...

“Did the check clear?”

Seems like Yesterday



Seems like Yesterday

ON THE FOUNDATION DAY...

I will give you that the day and time for starting to build your house (in Thailand) is one time that the first statement is true, important and much time, calming thoughts and an extra big helping of saint's patience is needed to deal with the local community – as this becomes not an individual endeavor between you and your builder but, is a group (the whole, local community) effort...

There must be a special ceremony to arrange for erecting the first pillar or foundation stone of the home to be laid in the presence of a cadre of chanting monks, nosy neighbors and a highly decorated spirit house needs to be erected as some kind of a free condo for all the previous generations of ghosts that still haunt the construction grounds.

This thing with trying to do right by the amassed spirits, they (Thais) do very strongly believe in this and more so, your future neighbors do so too and are out there (in force) at your ceremony to ensure that your spirit house and your sundry collection,

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

ON THE FOUNDATION DAY...

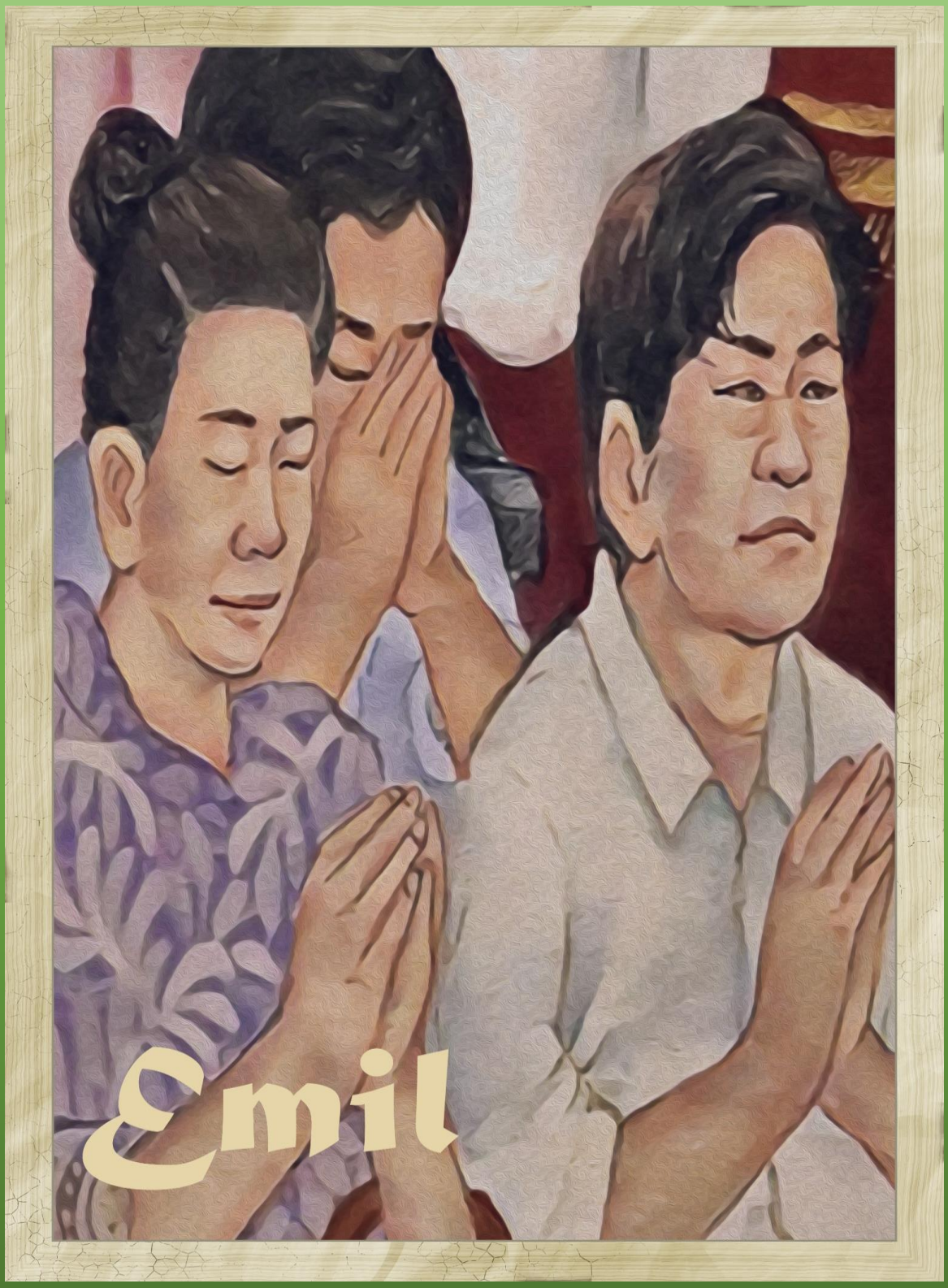
your ragtag cadre of evil spirits are not located too near their property.

It is unbelievable to the extent that Thais will go to avoid pissing off the neighbors and more so, the angry spirits that came with the land...so much so, that a monk who is specially trained in such delicate matters is dispatched from the monastery to survey your land beforehand and I assume, after they have had an opportunity to consult with the headman (sexist spirits...what can I say...they were not WOKE back then!) of the assembled (angry) spirits; the monk will determine where the Spirit House needs to go.

Many years ago, I had the honor to attend the ceremony for the laying of the foundation stone for the Paknam Pagoda.

At the grand ceremony, they officials and Real Estate Developers/Builders waxed on, extensively, about what was going to be a 139-meter pagoda that they gleefully proclaimed that it will have some truly amazing views of Bangkok and even the Gulf of Thailand on a clear day (like that is gonna

Seems like Yesterday



Seems like Yesterday

ON THE FOUNDATION DAY...

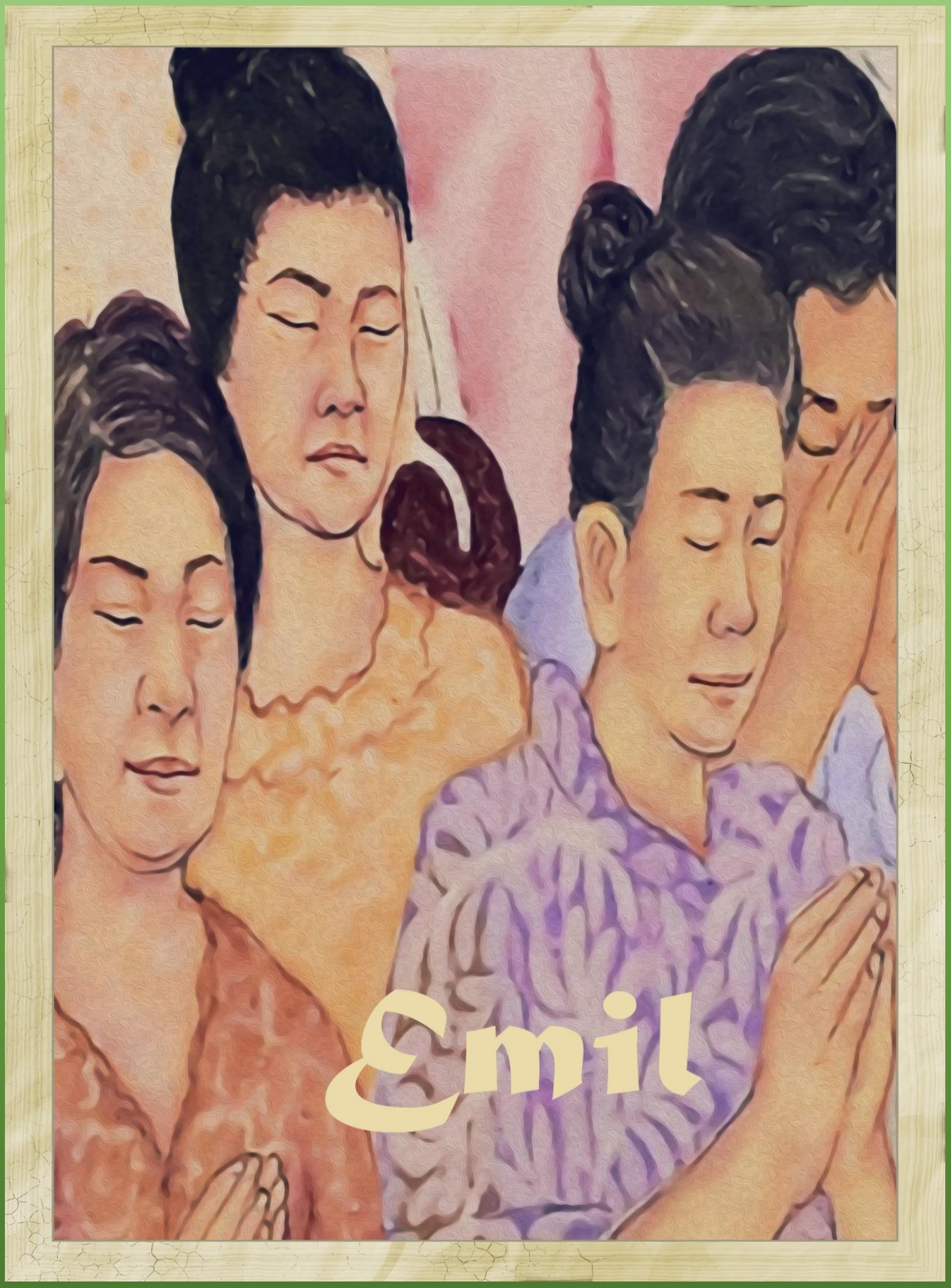
happen these days...a clear day is still only a very rather remote memory...much like the last snowy day in Bangkok) ...from up on the balconies to be built into the sixth floor.

They had also been big plans of a complex restaurants, shops, museum and library.

While the business entrepreneurism of the Real Estate Developers has turned out to have been a combination of wishful thinking and mis-opportunities; there are a side alley of a few food stands for those not willing to trek down to the 7-11 or back to the main street(s) and the museum (which WWWG as declared and resigned from this edition into a separate volume on which I will be dutifully cheated out of my standard fee and expenses...True Communists!) which occupies several of the floors of the Pagoda...is well worth the trip if you are into antiques and old statuses.

According to Thai astrology, there are three days of the week when you should never start construction of a building: Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday.

Seems like Yesterday



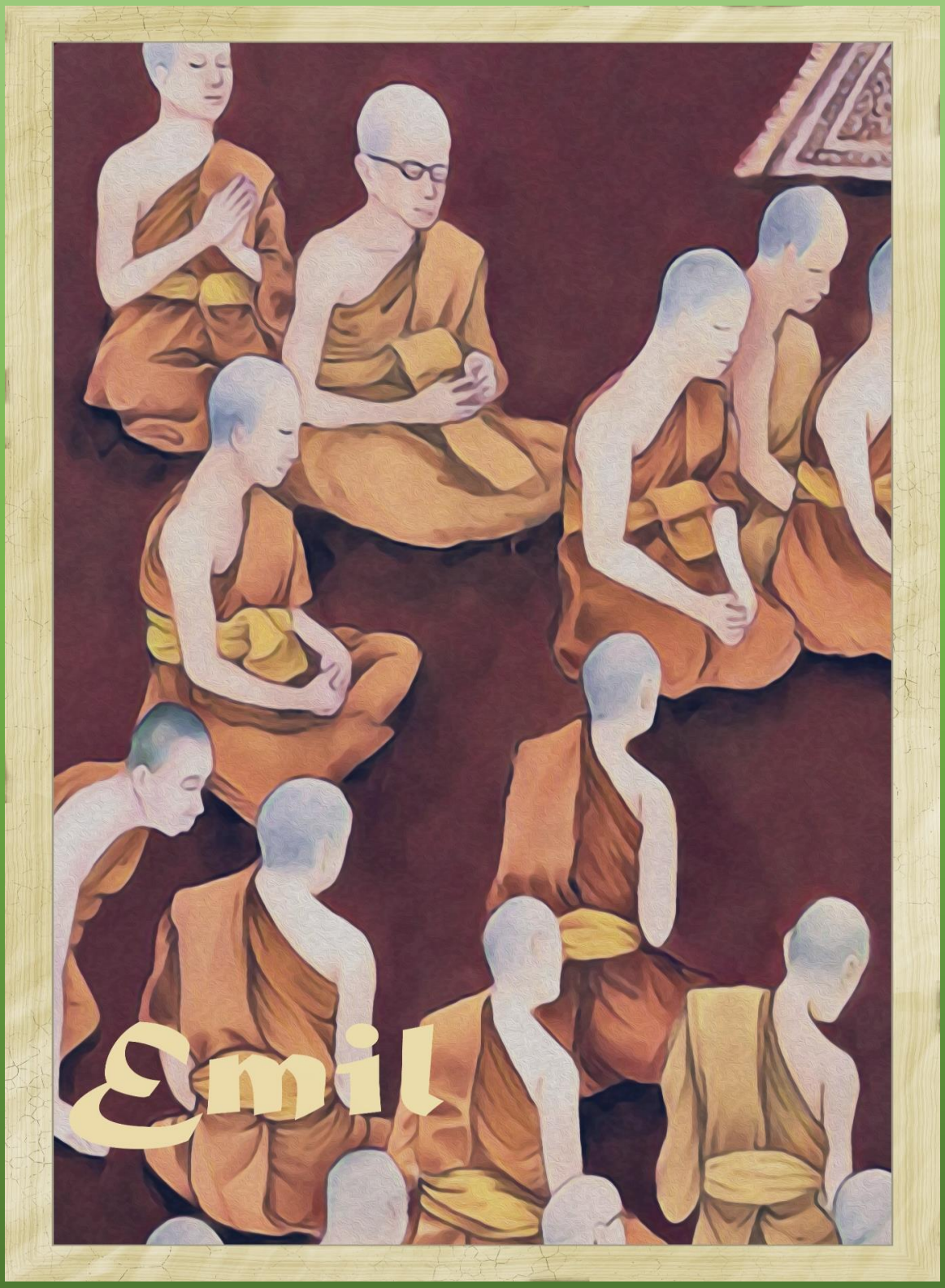
Seems like Yesterday

ON THE FOUNDATION DAY...

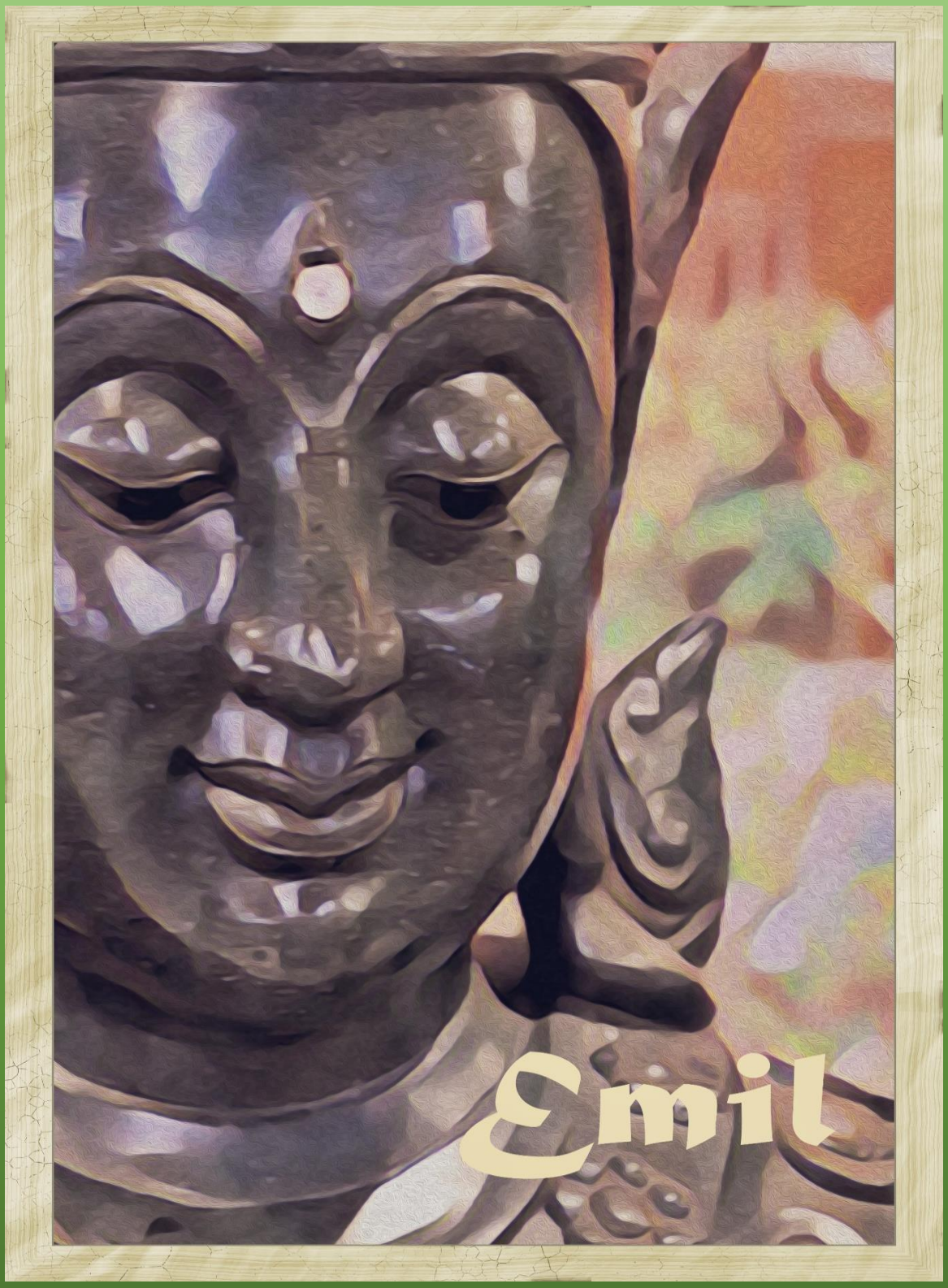
For the Paknam Pagoda, everything was done by the book.
The day they picked was Friday 18th May 2007.
The time for the actual laying of the foundation stone (see picture above) was also set for exactly 2.19 p.m.
The number "nine" is considered auspicious by Thai people as it sounds like the Thai word for "progress". Everything is done in multiples of nine.
There were nine monks and nine different kinds of food offerings for them.
I still recall it every time I come for a quick visit while humming that old and odd 1960's song...

"Three-six-nine, the goose drank wine,
the monkey eat tobacco on the street-car line...
the line broke,
the monkey got chocked
and
they all went to heaven in a little row boat..."

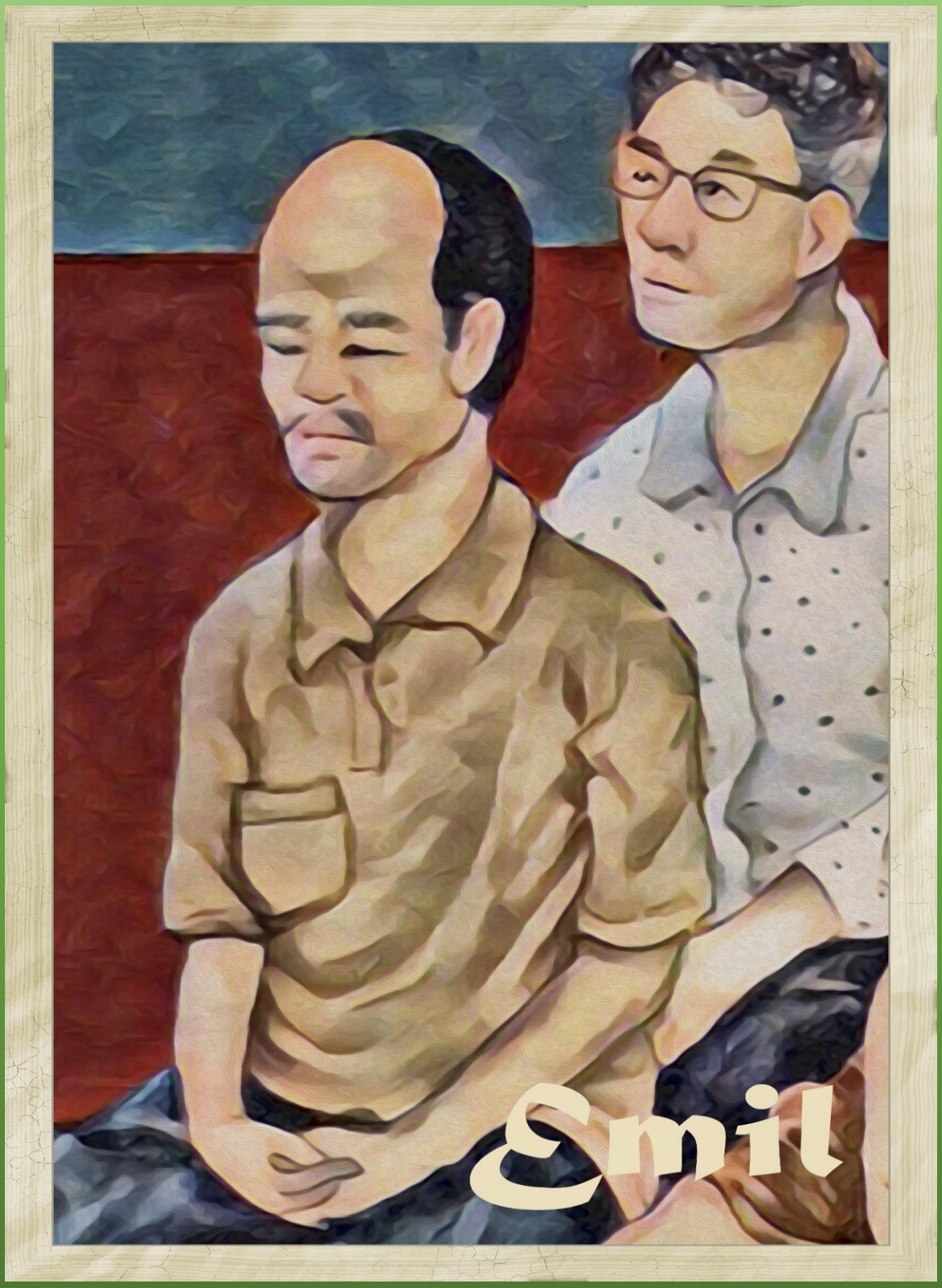
Seems like Yesterday



Seems like Yesterday



Seems like Yesterday

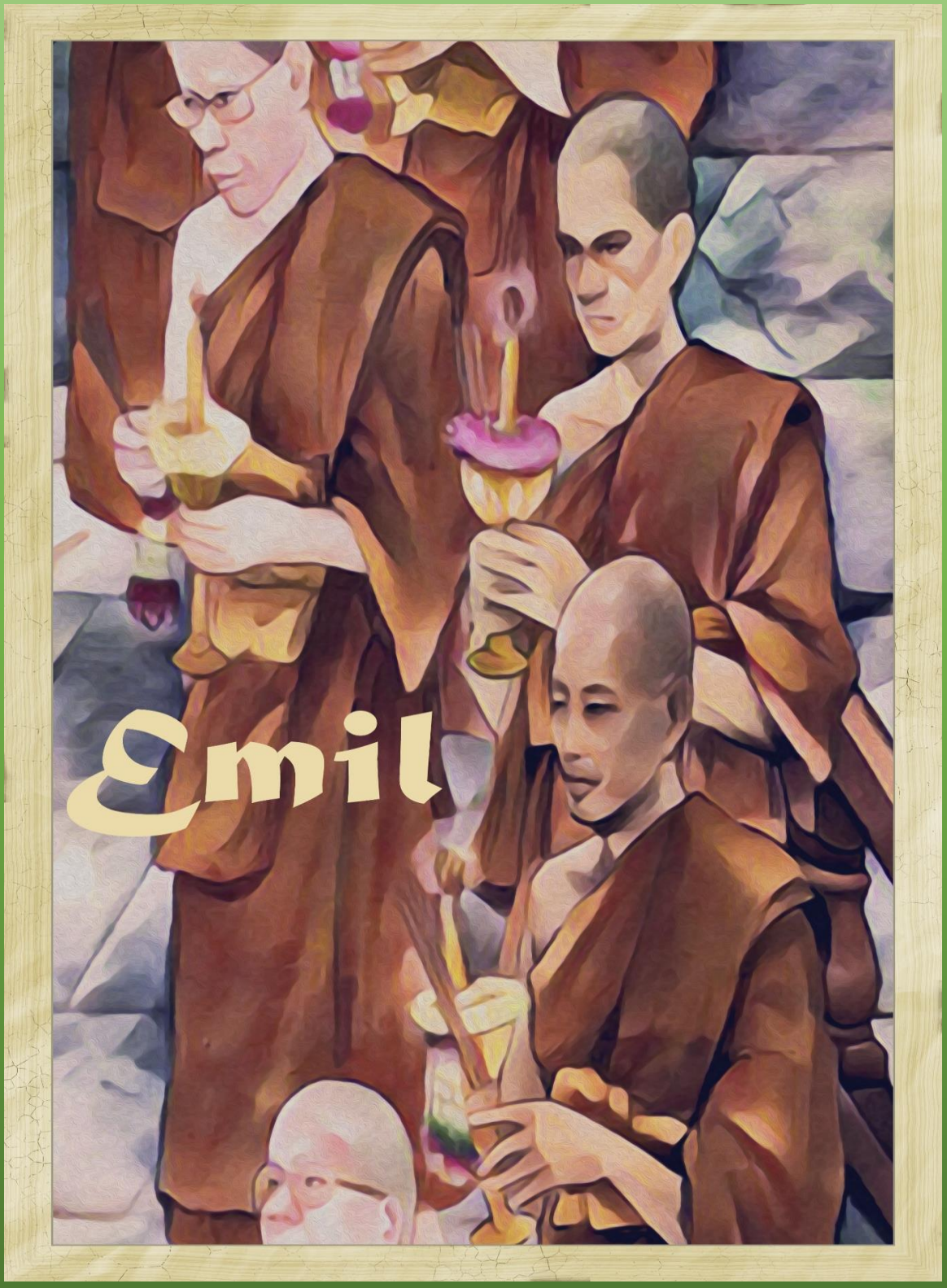


Seems like Yesterday

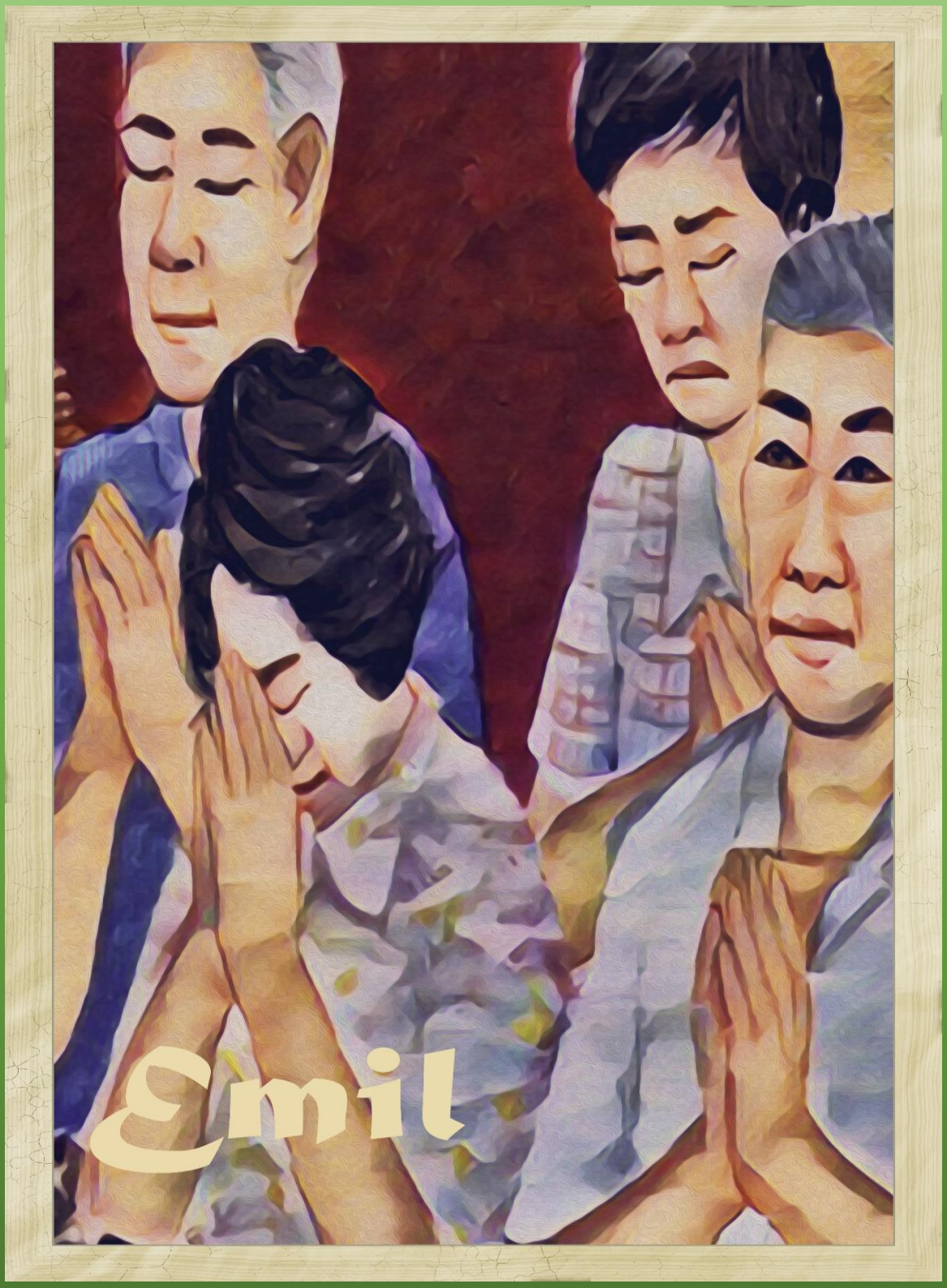
Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday



Seems like Yesterday



Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

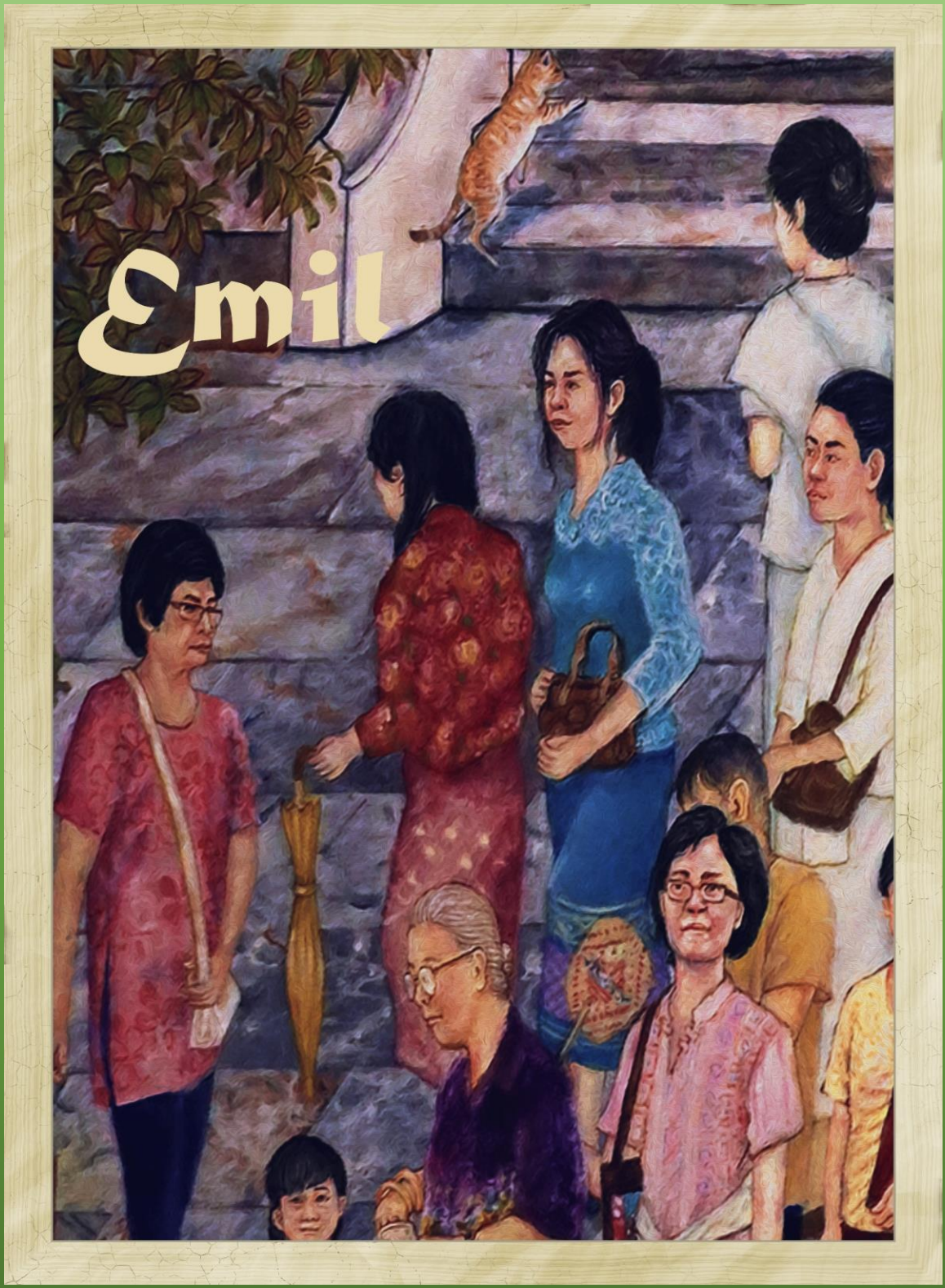
Seems like Yesterday

Emil

Seems like Yesterday

Emil

Seems like Yesterday

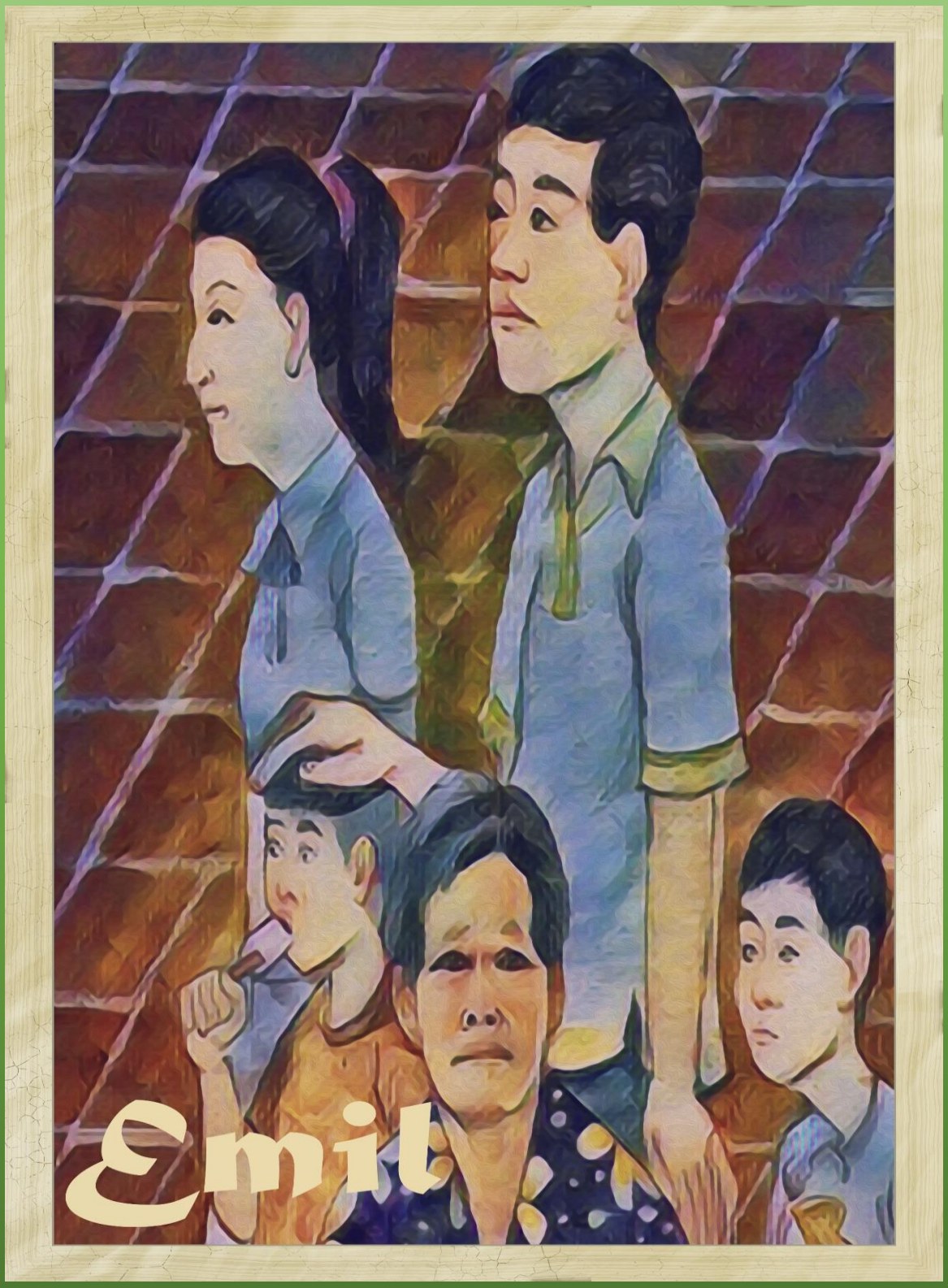


Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

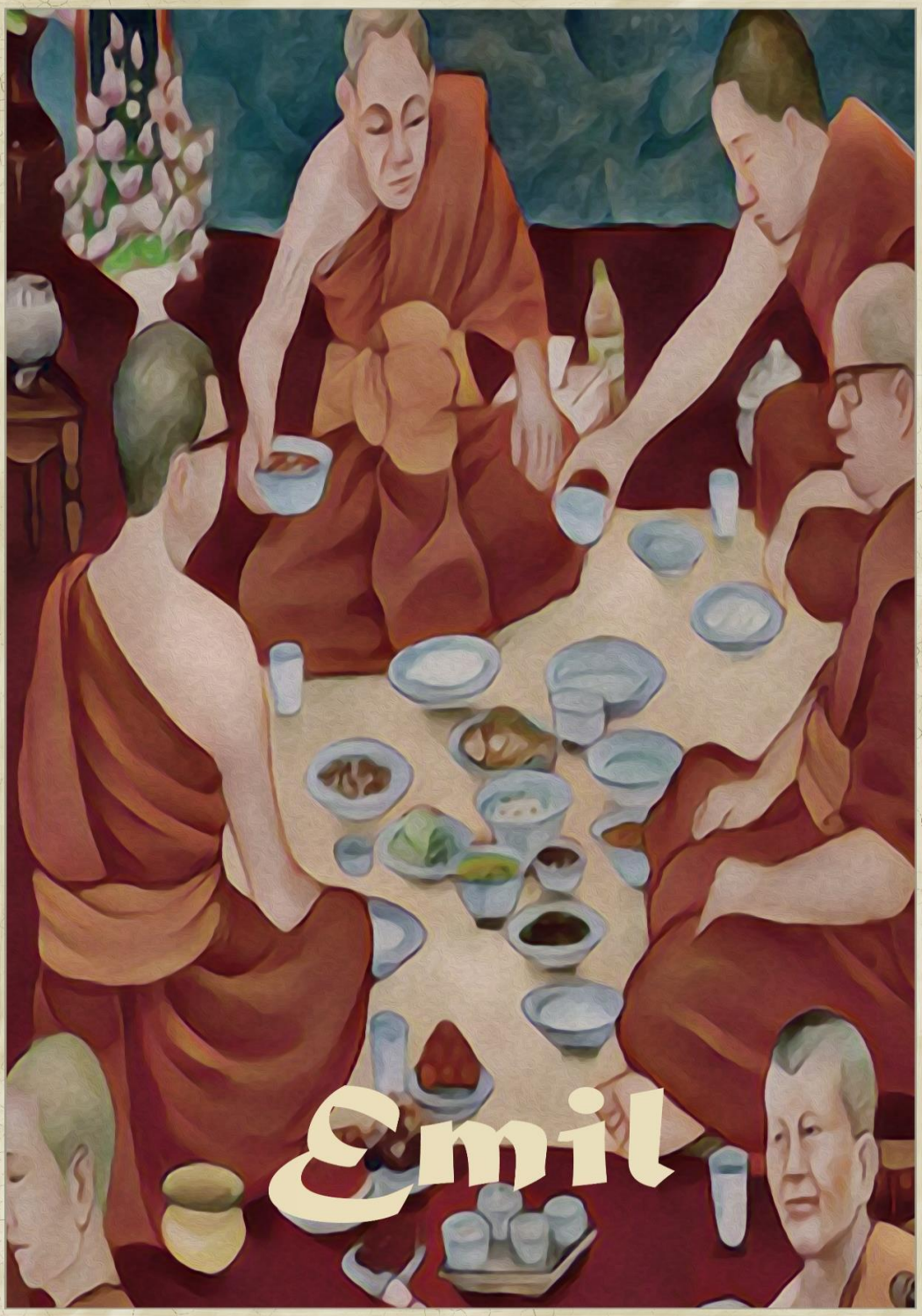


Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

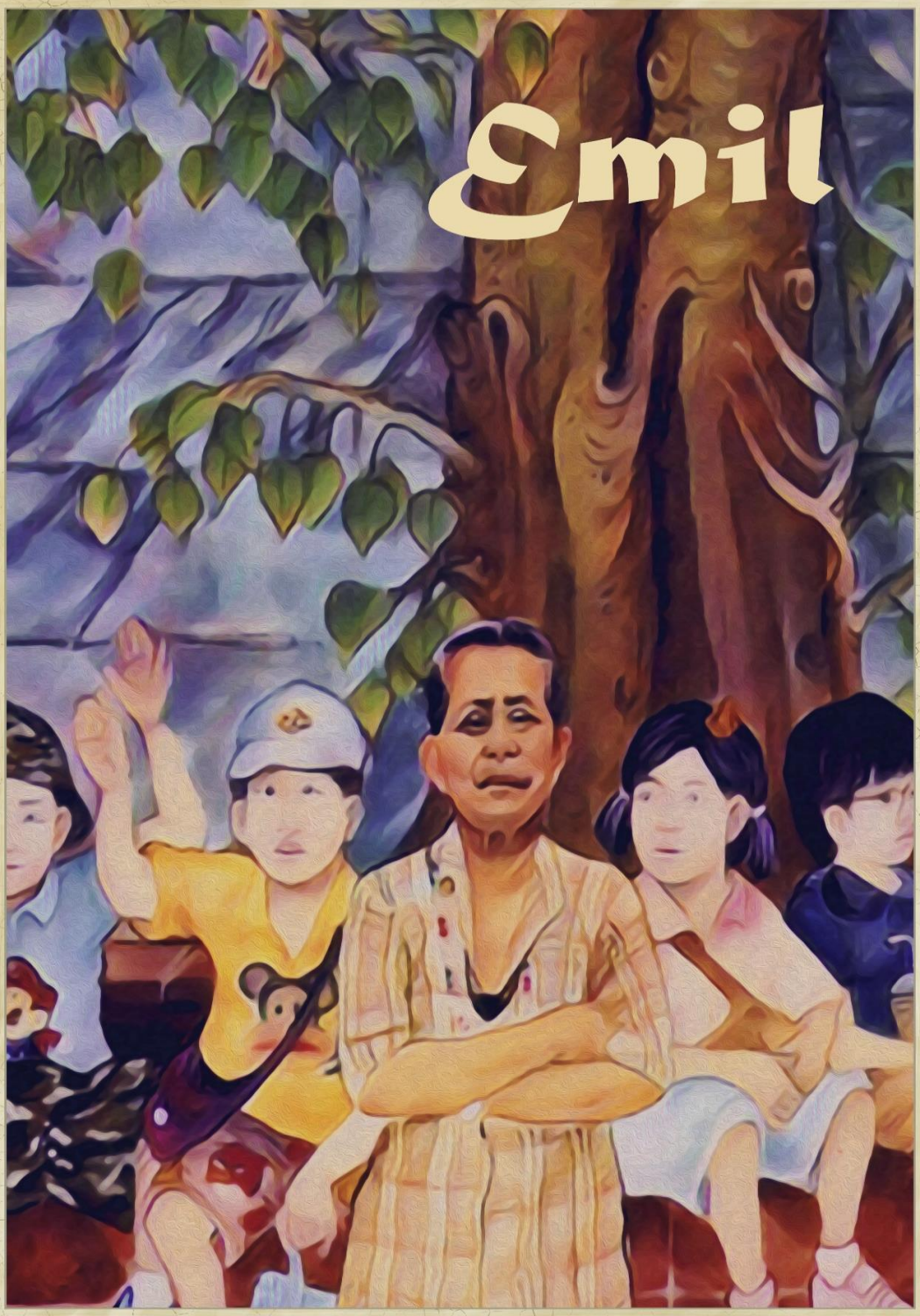
Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday



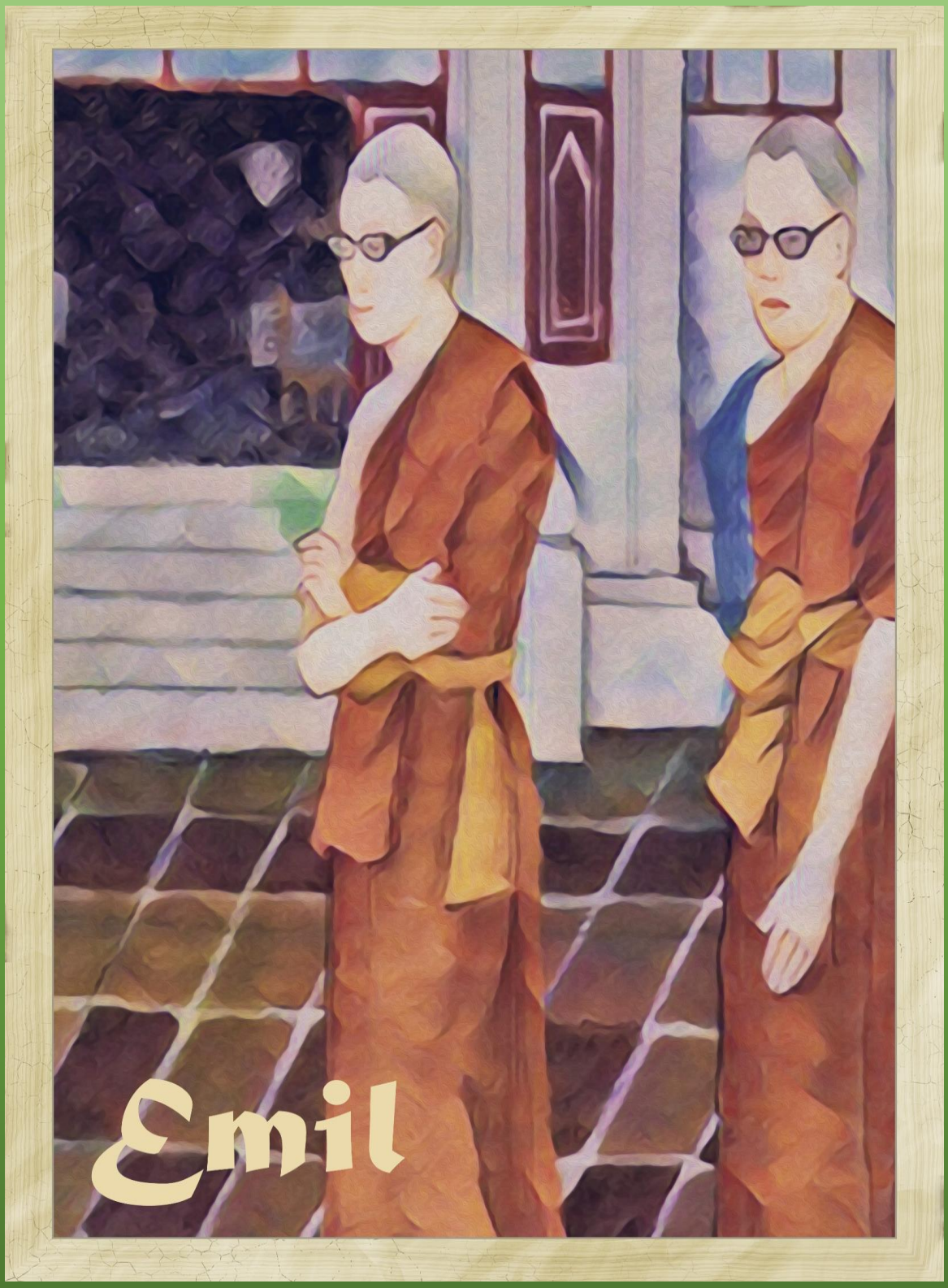
Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday



Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday



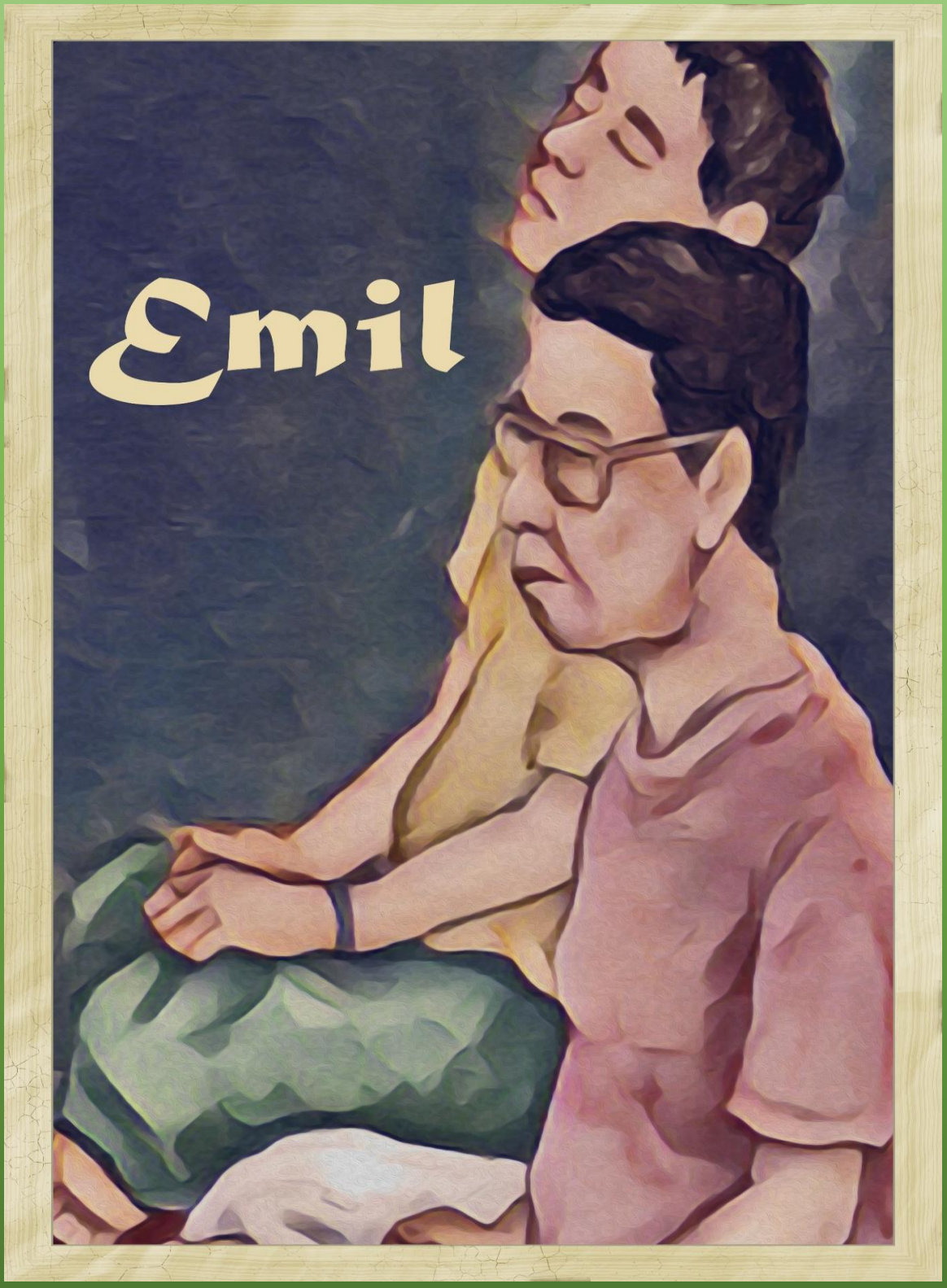
Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday



Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

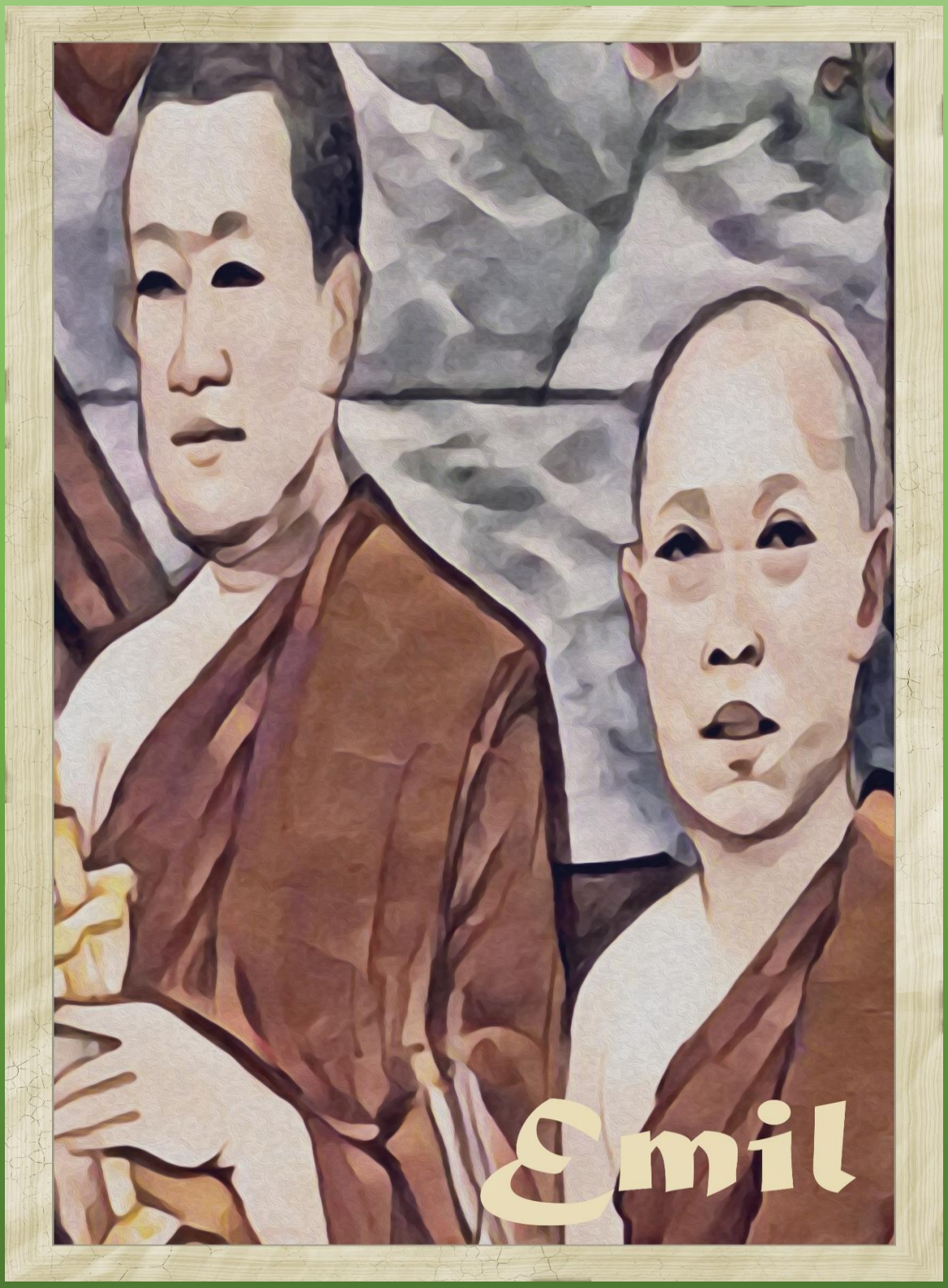
Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

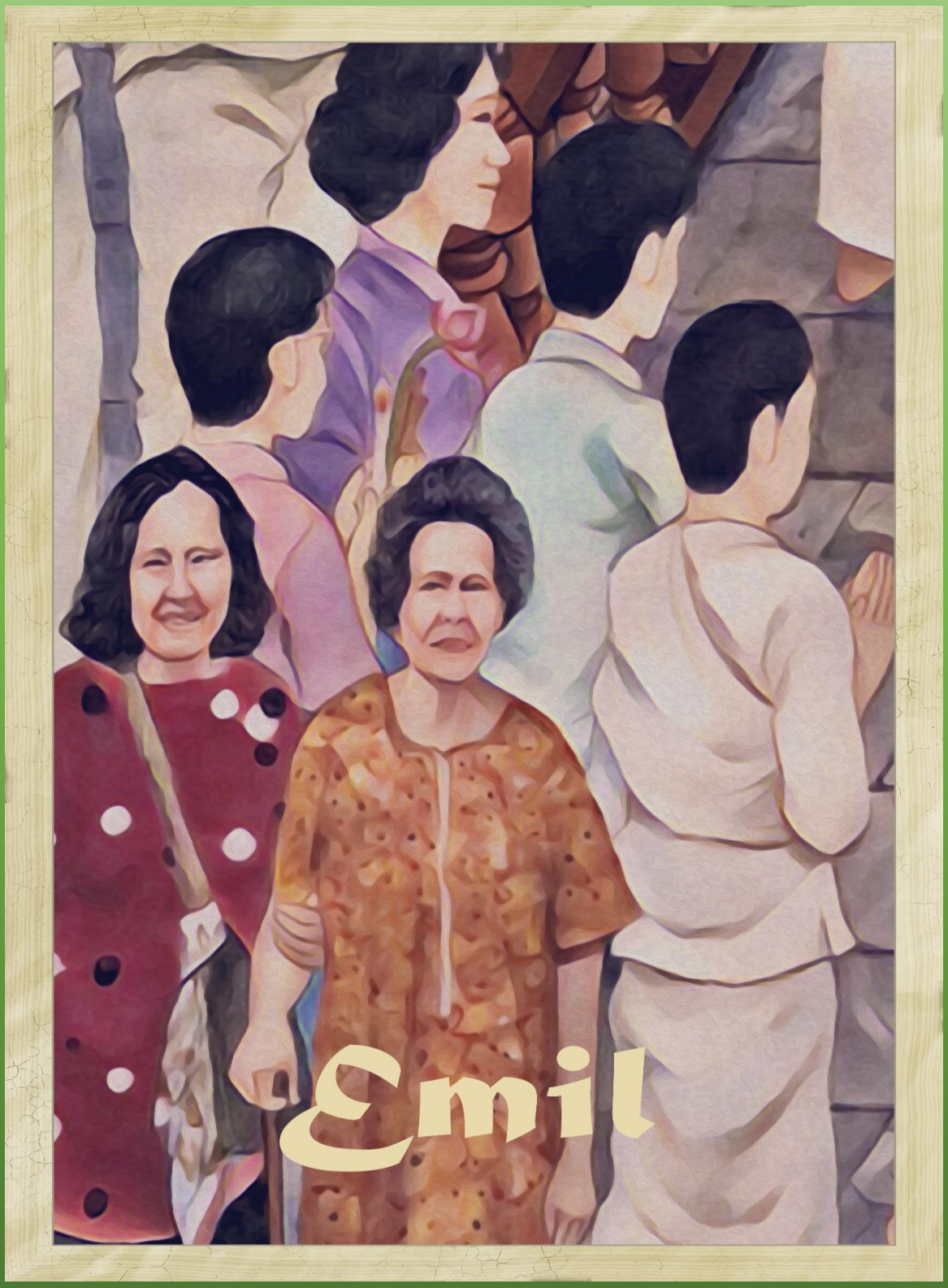


Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday



Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Emil

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

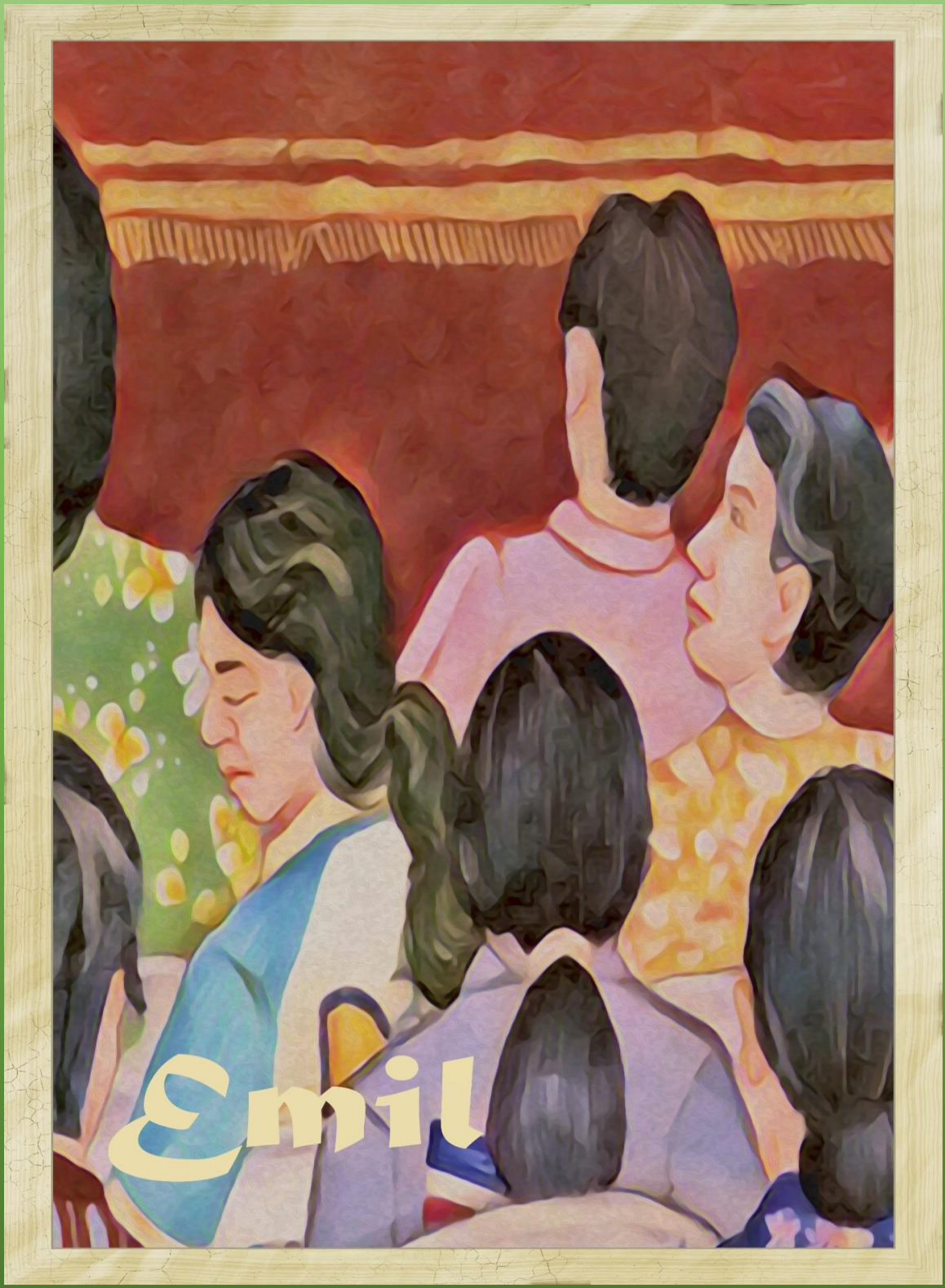
Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

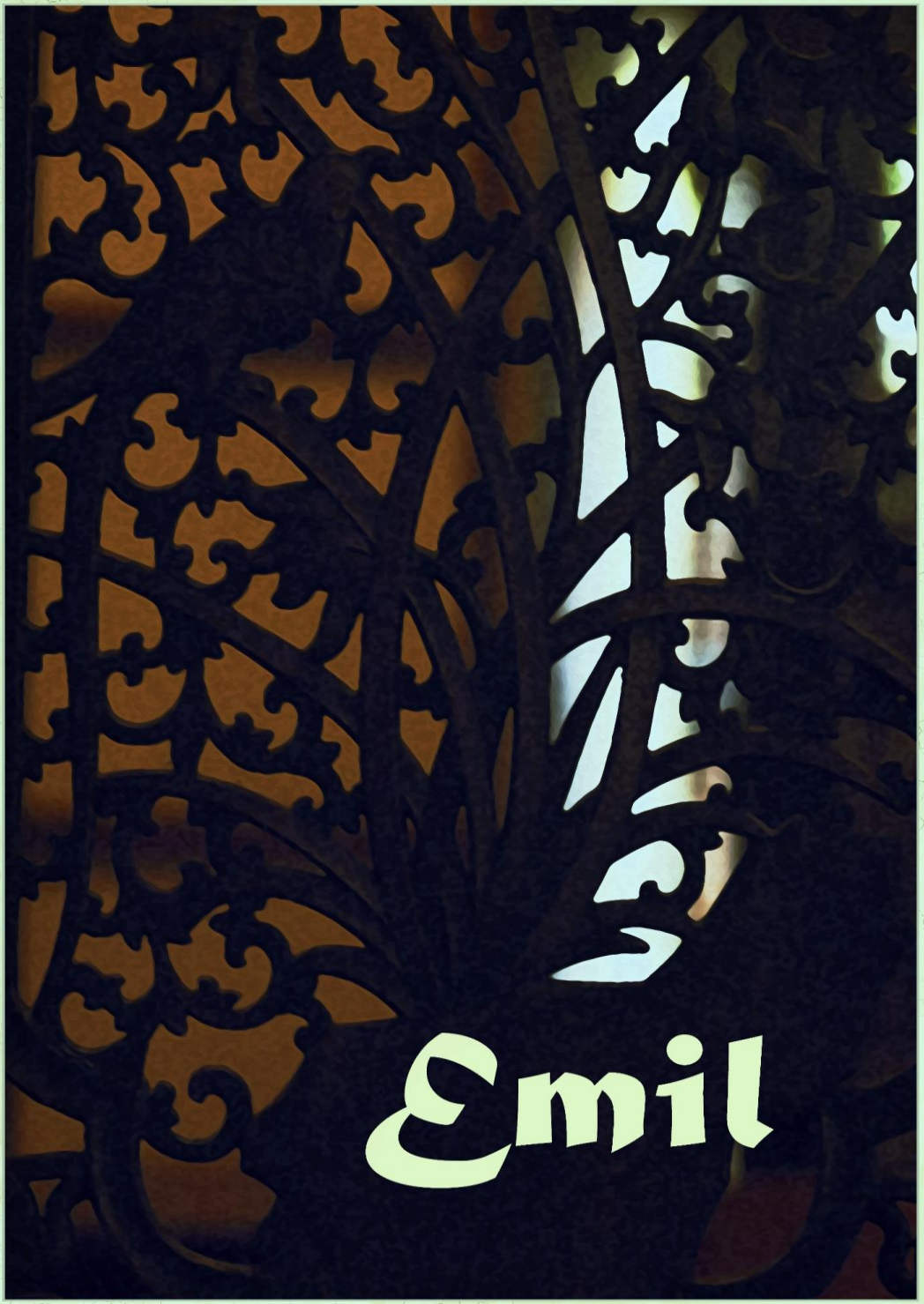
Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday



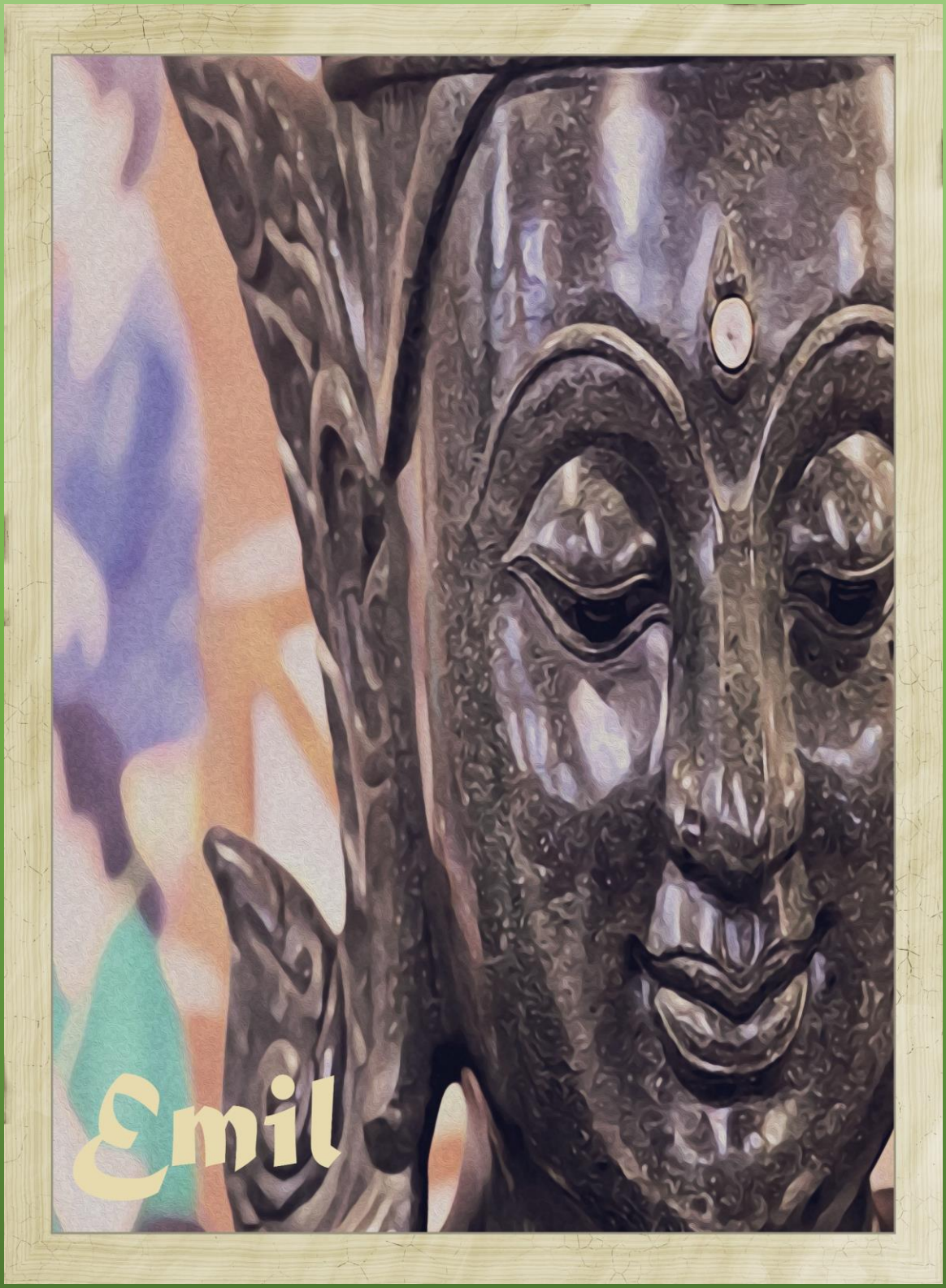
Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

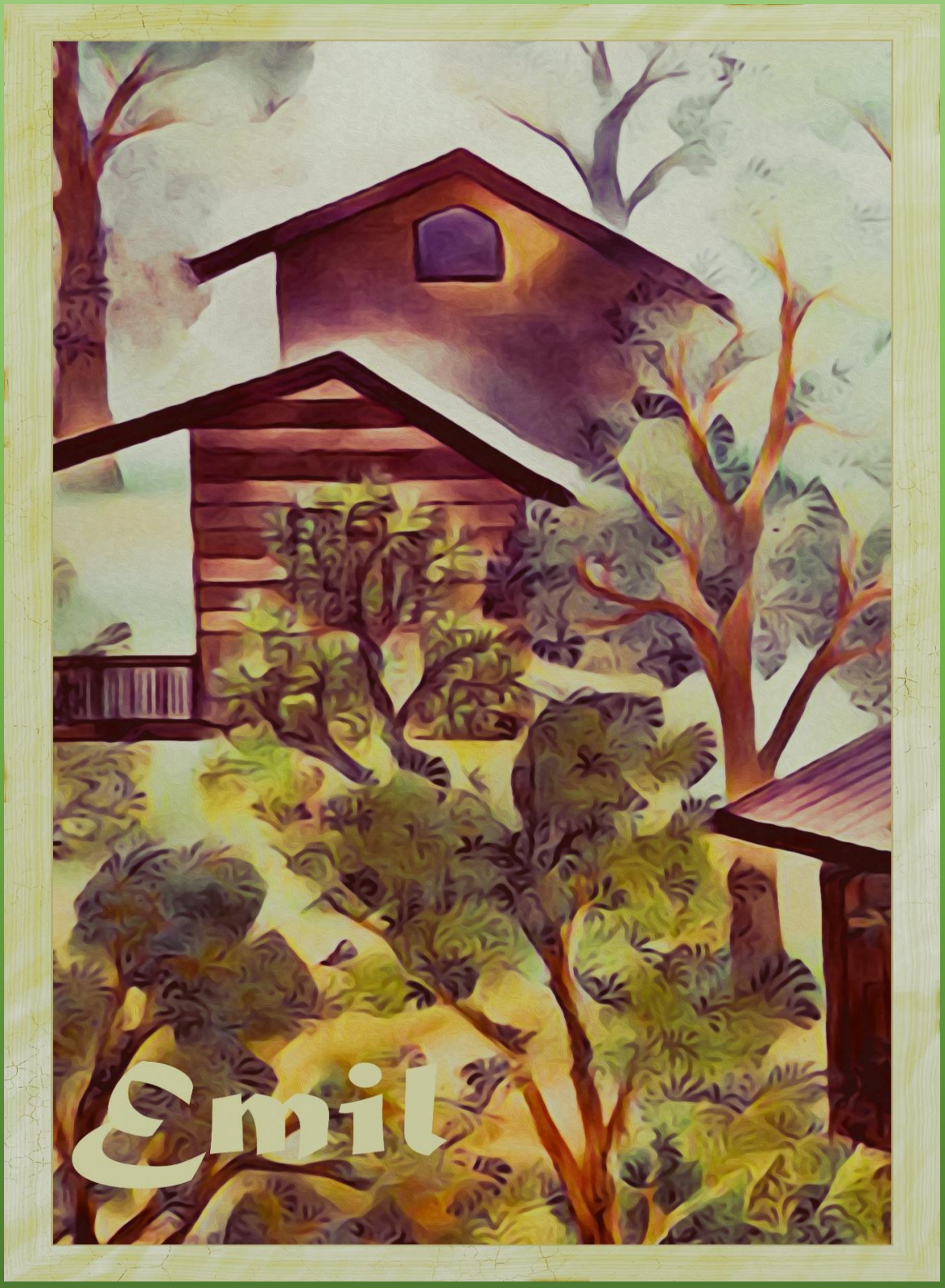


Emil

Seems like Yesterday

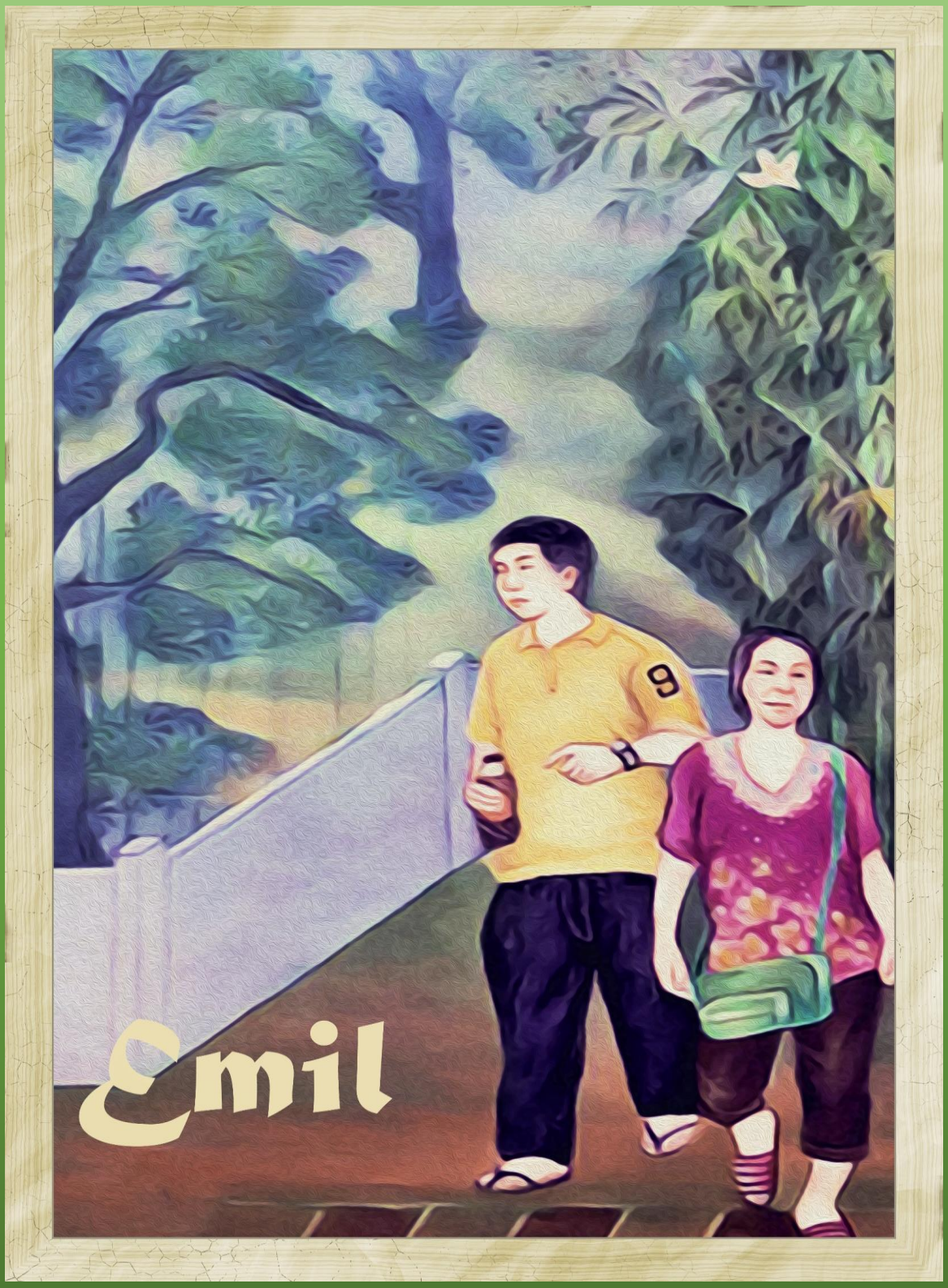


Seems like Yesterday



Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday



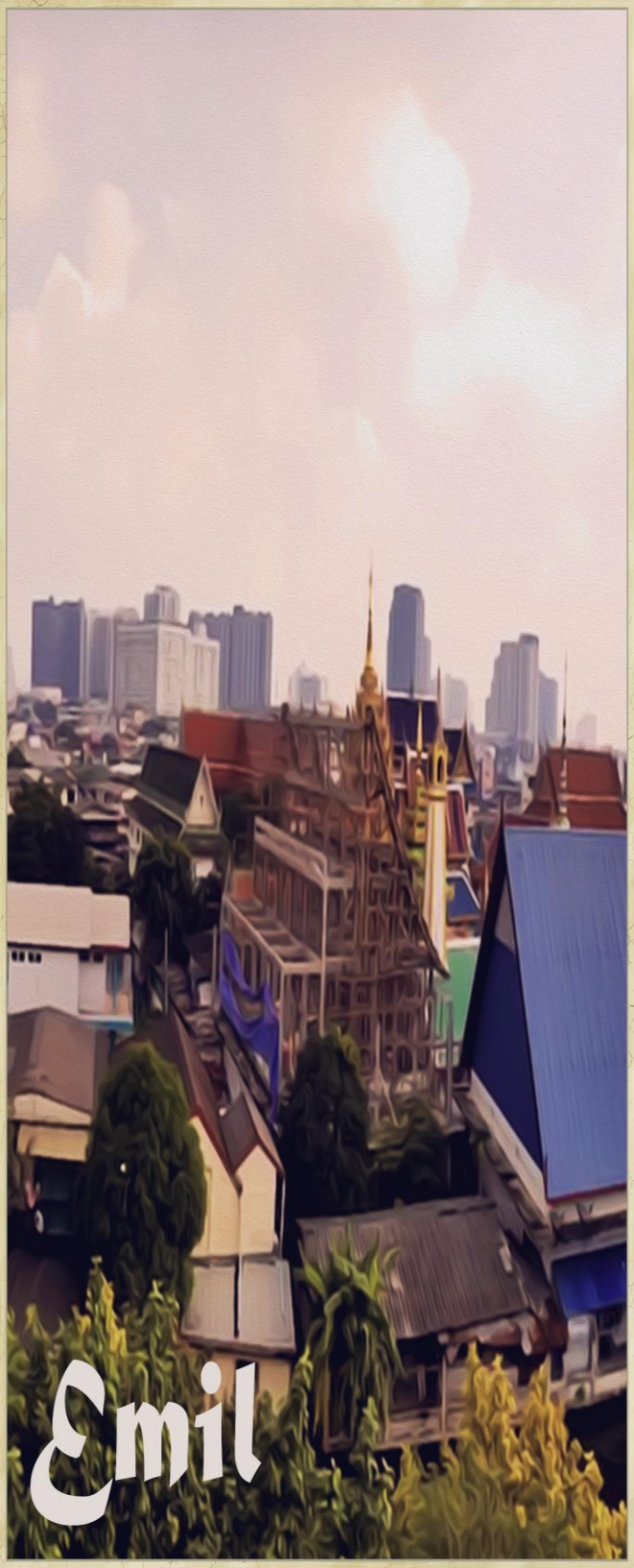
Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Seems like Yesterday

Emil

Emil


Emil

Emil West is in Singapore.

1 min ·

NEW PHOTOS ADDED...
https://www.flickr.com/photos/emilinsingapore/?

Like Comment Share

Write a comment...

Emil West
7 mins

Check it out...had to drop some videos and lost 2 million views but, it was worth it not to be extorted by rouge, music copyright FAKE claimers,,,
We are still at over 5 million views...even though it has been three years since the last video posted,,,

Emil

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
1973 – 2043 CE
FOR INFO CONTACT US @
fredgwest1999@yahoo.com

http://www.youtube.com/user/fredgwest1999

OVER 5 MILLION VIEWS....

Like Comment Share

Emil West is in Singapore.

1 min ·

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009382663916

Day Trip to Singapore...

With my trust Nikon F4s in hand and with only a single roll of 36 exposures...mostly due to to the utter cheapness of WWWG...
Story should be labeled, "Cheap-ass Trip to Singapore..."
They didn't even give me a "one day" bus token..... See more

Like Comment Share

amazon

Kindle Store

Shop Today's Deals

Deliver to Thailand

Departments | Today's Deals | Your Amazon.com | Gift Cards | Help | Registry | Sell

EN | Hello, Sign in Account & Lists | Orders | Cart

Buy a Kindle | Kindle eBooks | Kindle Unlimited | Prime Reading | Best Sellers & More | Kindle Book Deals | Free Reading Apps | Kindle Singles | Newsstand | Accessories | Kindle content | Kindle Support | Advanced Search

Sign in

New customer? Start here.

EMIL WEST

+ Follow

Follow to get new release updates and improved recommendations

Kindle Edition	Kindle Edition	Kindle Edition	Kindle Edition	Kindle Edition	Kindle Edition	Kindle Edition	Kindle Edition	Kindle Edition
$2.99	$2.99	$2.99	$1.99	$1.99	$1.99	$2.99	$1.99	$2.99

About EMIL WEST

Welcome to all fans (all five or so of you) of Emil's doddles and we hope you will enjoy this new catalog of Emil's available art.
Emil had other ideas as to what the title should be and even though, they were clever and not without merit; Charles (WWWG's Financial Guru) won the final selection with the argument that we might create a new market for

Read more

Are you an author?

Help us improve our Author Pages by updating your bibliography and submitting a new or current image and biography.

Author Updates

Books By EMIL WEST

All Formats | Kindle Edition | Paperback

Sort by: Popularity

https://www.amazon.com/EMIL-WEST/e/B00ASSUHJS?ref_=pe_1724030_132998060